

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you visited or do you plan to visit the Taste of the Marianas festival this month?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Worst Fears

Gooey, rust-colored oil wash into the mouth of the Mississippi for the first time.

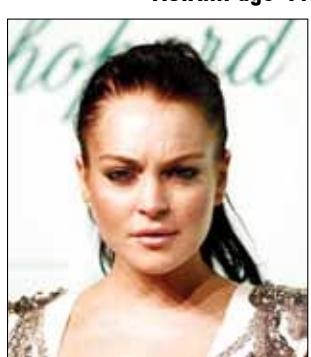
NATION...Page 10



Korea Ambush

South Korea's president says his country was caught in a "perfect military ambush."

ASIA...Page 11



Warrant Recall

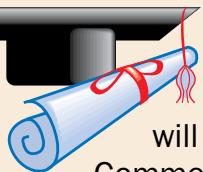
A judge recalls arrest warrant for Lindsay Lohan hours after it was issued.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Indigenous people to hold own rally

» Organizers say Chamorros, Carolinians may become 'minority' in CNMI

NMC GRADUATION ON THE NET



The Northern Marianas College's IT Department, in collaboration with IT&E and Marianas High School, will be streaming live NMC's 30th Commencement Exercises at 4pm today, May 22, 2010. To access the live broadcast, go to: www.ustream.tv/channel/nmc-2010-graduation.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Chamorros, Carolinians and their supporters will be holding a peaceful rally on May 29, hoping the U.S. Congress will hear the concerns of the CNMI's indigenous people on major issues such as a proposal to grant permanent residency or U.S. citizenship to some 20,000 foreign workers. See RALLY on Page 4



ANGEL ON EARTH

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), left, presents Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero, third from right, with a commemorative congressional record honoring Angel's unselfish contributions. Sablan also presented Angel Ray, his mother, Victoria Tudela Guerrero, and father, Joseph Tenorio Guerrero, a collection of children's books from the Surplus Collection of the Library of Congress that Angel Ray will donate to local charities and organizations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Federal court fines Nogis \$125 for littering

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday found Felix Nogis guilty of a misdemeanor charge of littering at the American Memorial Park

in Garapan and fined him \$125.

Visiting judge John C. Coughenour recognized that Nogis may not have been the one who left behind all the trash but he should be held responsible, being the organizer

of the party.

The judge said the amount of trash left behind was disgusting and showed disrespect to the park, which symbolizes the sacrifices made by soldiers during

See FEDERAL on Page 4

MVA gears up for new visitors' survey. PAGE 2
Pacific-wide music competition seeks untapped talents. PAGE 5

Local

MVA gears up for new visitors' survey

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is gearing up for a new visitors' survey to help determine the needs of the islands' tourists and provide the best services it can offer them.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio disclosed that the agency plans to initiate the study this year and they believe its results will enhance and improve the state of tourism on island.

CNMI last conducted a visitors' survey in 2003.

With the new poll, MVA

could capture new information from tourists and in the end will aid the agency in coming up with services that would motivate visitors to travel here and stay, Tenorio said.

"Although we capture some visitor information in the customs form, an actual survey is very important for us to improve and motivate them to travel here," Tenorio said.

Funding for the new survey will be sourced from the federal assistance provided by the Office of the Interior Affairs, amounting to \$350,000 this fiscal year.

Tenorio said the funding was awarded to update the CNMI's tourism strategic plan but a portion can be used for the survey.

"Right now we're putting the RFP together [for the survey]... then we will select the company," he said, adding the process could take awhile before a contract can be awarded.

He said the survey questions must also be finalized so it could generate more accurate and comprehensive findings.

Lack of funds

Tenorio said the lack of funds continues to hound the agency

and hampers not only its operation and marketing of the destination but also the improvement work on infrastructure and development of new attractions. Among these are enhancements to the Kalabera Cave and refurbishing the Susupe baseball field. Other projects such as the enhancement of the Susupe Lake were also stalled due to some issues besides funding.

He also cited the need to put more shading in the Garapan area and more frequent island cleanups.

"We have a consistent dialogue with the Legislature...on

our need for more money to promote our destination," he said.

MVA submitted a proposed budget of \$10 million for FY 2011. Only \$5.3 million was recommended by the Fitial administration due to declining government revenue and collections.

Due to limited funding for

promotional activities, MVA may reduce exposure to its source markets. At present, the CNMI has only one offshore office each in Japan and Korea. For the rest of the markets, MVA is working with tour agents that bring charter services to the islands.

New local law allots \$402K to the Rota Casino Gaming Commission

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into local law on Thursday a measure appropriating \$402,000 for the operations and activities of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission for Fiscal Year 2010.

House Local Bill 17-20, D1, introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), is now Rota Local Law 17-4.

Inos and Santos, in separate interviews yesterday, said the \$402,000 came from the application fee paid by Rota Treasure Island Corp. to operate a casino on Rota. The Rota Casino Gaming Commission

granted Rota Treasure Island Corp. a conditional license to operate a casino.

Santos and Inos said the fee is non-refundable.

The investor is now working on meeting the requirements set by the commission for a final casino license to operate a casino. Rota Treasure Island Corp. earlier said its casino project is worth at least \$25 million.

From 1991 to 2003, Rota tried four times without success to allow casino operation through public initiative.

However, in November 2007, Rota voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of the public initiative to allow casino gaming. About 85 percent of the votes

cast voted in favor of the initiative, now known as the Rota Casino Act of 2007.

\$60,000 for executive director, \$228,000 for commissioners

The \$402,000 appropriation measure follows the transmittal letter of the Rota Municipal Council approving the operational budget of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission for FY 2010.

Based on the approved budget, the commission will pay a \$60,000 salary to an executive director who has yet to be named.

Commissioners will also be paid \$228,865.17.

Besides the payments for the executive director and the commissioners, the other items to be paid include: \$44,755.73 for payment of FY 2009 tax; \$1,200 for Web site maintenance; \$1,855 for legal fees; \$3,350 for consultant fee; \$213 for April 2010 telephone; administrative assistant, \$25,000; and \$36,761.10 for the Rota mayor operations.

Except for the last item, the expenditure authority for the funds is the chairman of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, who is Diego M. Songao. The Rota mayor will be the expenditure authority for the money set aside for his office's operations.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Do Re Mi violin recital today

The Do Re Mi School of Music is inviting the public to its 20th annual violin recital today, May 22, at 4pm to 6pm, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

This recital will feature different age and skill levels of more than 30 violinists. These musicians have been preparing for about six months to a year, practicing solo pieces and group songs, which they are very eager to perform.

The night will consist of classical and contemporary composers, such as Vitali, Saraste, the Beatles, Carlos Gardel, and many more! Maestro Ao Zhang is very excited to showcase the school's talent. He, along with the Do Re Mi students and their families, encourage everyone to enjoy this night with them. (PR)

MHS Japan Club sets lunch sale today

The 2010 Marianas High School Japan Club will be having a lunch sale today, May 22. The Club is offering fried chicken, barbecued ribs, coco, red rice and a drink for the price of \$5. Proceeds will go toward the class trip to Tokyo in June. For orders or more information contact Jim Tuttle at jimbotuttle@yahoo.com or 237-3268. The MHS Japan Club would like to thank you for your kind assistance in helping their MHS students reach their dream of going to Japan.

NMC graduation on the Net

The Northern Marianas College's IT Department, in collaboration with IT&E and Marianas High School, will be streaming live NMC's 30th Commencement Exercises at 4pm today, May 22,

See BRIEFS on Page 4

Saipan International School

Proudly presents Our Graduating Class of 2010



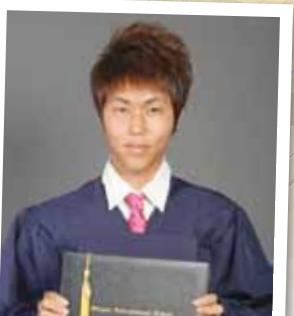
Kisses Aquino



Miguel Brostrom



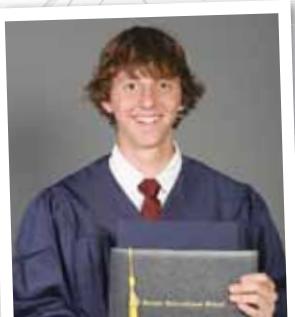
Annie Camacho



Sung Jae Cho



Seung Hee Choi



Cooper Graf



Sarah Johnson



Selyna Leon Guerrero



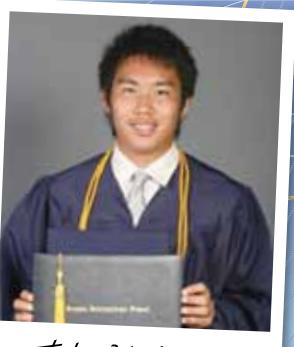
So Young Lim



Lila Mailman



Michael Stewart



Tyler Yoshimoto

University and College Acceptances: Indiana University, University of Hawaii, Waseda University (Japan), Babson College, Knox College, University of Michigan, Boise State University, Loyola University of Chicago, University of San Diego, California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo, Northeastern University, University of San Francisco, DePaul University, Penn State University, University of Texas, Austin, Hofstra University, St. John's University, University of Washington

Interim NMC president, full board set Hawaii trip

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine Cabrera and the entire Board of Regents have confirmed their attendance in a two-day boardmanship training at the Honolulu Community College next month.

The group will be accompanied by two board staffers who are included on the final list of delegates to the event.

During Wednesday's special board meeting, board chair Janet King said they will also conduct their self-evaluation and retreat in between events in Hawaii. An off-island facilitator is expected to join the group in the board retreat.

"In the working session, we will talk about the leadership of the board because it's very important. All seven members

of the board will have the opportunity to share and discuss things in this retreat," King told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the working session would also discuss the election for the new board chair.

Board policy mandates the regents to conduct elections during even-numbered years. King was elected in December 2009 upon the expiration of the term of Charles Cepeda. The policy provides a two-year term for the board chair.

However, King said the actual selection and voting will still take place in a regular meeting and not at the working session in Hawaii.

Based on the conference schedule, the boardmanship training will take place on June 14 and 15. Participants include Cabrera, King, Andrew Orsini, Maria Paz Younis, Frank Rabauliman,

Charles Cepeda, Maria Malua Peter, Elaine Orilla, and two board staffers.

Other expected delegates are from the Palau Community College, American Samoa Community College, College of the Marshall Islands, College of Micronesia, and Guam Community College.

Funding for the trip will come from the stimulus fund allocated for this purpose.

Fernandez officially out

At the same meeting, King disclosed that former president Dr. Carmen Fernandez is now officially out of NMC after returning all of the college's properties. These included her assigned vehicle and laptop. She also completed the college's exit personnel action last Wednesday.

The former president was terminated on April 12 due to posi-

tive findings by the AG and the NMC counsel that she changed

some students' grades. Cabrera will remain in her

position until a permanent president is named by the board.

CNMI prepares for Memorial Day ceremony

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Preparations are underway for this year's Memorial Day, to honor the men and women who died while in the military service.

The Memorial Day ceremony will be held on May 31, Monday, at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi at 9am.

Col. Tod R. Fingal, vice commander of the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, will be the keynote speaker.

Prior to his current post which he held since November 2009, Fingal was commander of the 36th Operations Group, 36th Wing, at

Andersen Air Force Base.

Fingal, who has more than 4,200 flight hours, with 2,775 hours in the F-16, is a recipient of major awards and decorations, including a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and an Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

This year's Memorial Day ceremony will also include a B-2 flyover from the 36th Wing unit from Anderson Air Force Base, said the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Memorial Day Committee.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will also be leading the ceremony.

The Pacific Winds Concert Band will be on hand to begin pre-ceremonial music at 8:30am.

"The general public is invited to come celebrate and honor the brave men and women who have served the country with unwavering dedication and purpose, paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the world safe, and secured the freedom we enjoy today," Ruth Coleman, the governor's executive assistant for military and veterans affairs, said in a statement.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos will be signing a proclamation declaring May 25 to 31 Memorial Week on Tuesday at 11am.

Mid-level police execs undergo leadership training in Pohnpei



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mid-level police officers from Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and from each of the four Federated States of Micronesia states pose for a group photo after the first Micronesian Leadership Development Program at the College of Micronesia-FSM national campus in Pohnpei, from May 11 to 21.

The Australian Federal Police, through its Pacific Police Development Program, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Police Management, held its first Micronesian Leadership Development Program for middle-ranking officers at the College of Micronesia-FSM national campus in Pohnpei, from May 11 to 21.

This program follows the PPDP holding executive level workshops in Palau, Marshall Islands and FSM.

Chris Barnes from the AFP said it was imperative that all the chiefs of police from the three countries were on board before these mid-ranking officers could begin their training.

During the opening day of the program, one officer from Palau mentioned that he was seeing changes in the police station just two weeks after the PPDP had visited Palau to meet with their

Chief of Police.

A prior media release explained that the Leadership Development Program is a groundbreaking initiative for Micronesia police and represents an exciting opportunity to engage in a range of activities designed to expose participants to various leadership models, critical thinking skills, change management and practical leadership and management tools to use in the workplace.

There are two goals for the PPDP: to increase the effectiveness of the police services in Micronesia and to increase community confidence in the police forces.

Participants in the conference represented mid-level police officers from Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and from each of the four FSM states. In all, there were 25

participants in this leadership workshop.

Another similar workshop will be held in Palau in July, and according to Barnes of the AFP, by July of 2012 a large percentage of officers will have undergone this training.

The 10 days of training covered topics ranging from challenges facing Micronesian policing, contemporary leadership and problem solving to sessions on emotional intelligence, ethical leadership, and risk management.

The AIPM team stated that they are not teaching anything; they are merely facilitating discussions on topics that many officers have never had formal training on. All learning will come from shared discussions and reflections by the participants where the instructors act as facilitators and share their own experience. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 01 NMHC RFP 2010-R-005

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SAIPAN LEADERSHIP MEMORIAL KIOS KU PROJECT, PHASE II

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios Ku Project, Phase II, Chalan Kanoa Village, District No. 2, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This design services is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009(CDBG-R).

Local Business Preference as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local proposers in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposals procedures shall be in full compliance with section 4-102 of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on or after **Wednesday, May 19, 2010**, at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office, Saipan. No fees required in obtaining the proposal package. Pre-Proposal Conference is schedule on **Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, Saipan, fax to (670) 234-9021 no later than **Wednesday, June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.**, local time.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of completion, with details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (names and experience) not to exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that firm that submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractor may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Professional qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of services – 30%
2. Project approach – 20%
3. Capacity to accomplish the work in the required time – 25%
4. Past performance on contract with Government on similar projects – 25%

Proposals must be sealed and marked **NMHC RFP 2010-R-005: Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios Ku Project, Phase II**. For proposal within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **Tuesday, June 08, 2010**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) workings for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **Tuesday, June 08, 2010**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of a foreign country no later than **Tuesday, June 08, 2010** AND must be received no later than **Tuesday, June 15, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

AMENDED OPENING DATE: Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **Wednesday, June 16, 2010**. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, **Tuesday, June 08, 2010**.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect-engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms maybe selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon;

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Court unseals indictments vs Tinian cop, 2 others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday unsealed the indictments filed against a Tinian police officer and two other men who were arrested during a joint anti-meth operation conducted by Tinian police

and Drug Enforcement Administration.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John C. Coughenour unsealed the cases against Police Officer I Gilbert Macaranas, Henry M. San Nicolas, and Carlos Aldan.

San Nicolas is an employee of the Tinian Mayor's Office and assigned

to the Dog Control Program. Aldan is jobless.

Coughenour unsealed the cases based on assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto's motion on Thursday.

Macaranas, San Nicolas, and Aldan pleaded not guilty at a sealed hearing on Thursday. The judge ordered their

detention and said a bail hearing could be set at a later date.

According to the indictment, Aldan distributed .052 grams of "ice" on July 22, 2009. On the same day, Aldan and Macaranas allegedly distributed .064 actual grams of "ice."

According to a separate indictment, San Nicolas distributed .12 actual grams of "ice" on July 17, 2009.

The arrest of the three on Thursday

became controversial after then Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro accused the DEA and its Guam-CNMI resident agent-in-charge, Antonio Marquez, of credit-grabbing.

He also accused a Tinian police officer of betraying DPS for "leaking information to the DEA."

Ogumoro was later relieved of his post.

Joyner gets 6 months prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court imposed a six-month prison term yesterday on convicted drug trafficker Jawn Joyner.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John C. Coughenour ordered Joyner to report to the U.S. Marshal on Wednesday, May 26, to begin serving his sentence.

After completing his sentence, Joyner will be placed on three years of supervised release.

Coughenour required Joyner to pay a \$300 special assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community service.

"The message I want to convey to the community is that dealing 'ice' is a risky business. If you're caught there will be jail term," he said.

Coughenour said the community

should know that the federal court does not tolerate drug-dealing activities.

He said Joyner should give credit to assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto for recommending just a year in prison.

If the case had happened in Seattle, Coughenour said, Joyner would have faced a mandatory five- to seven-year sentence.

The judge, however, commended Joyner for showing his rehabilitation and conducting presentation to students about not going into a life of crime.

Before the sentence was handed down, Joyner apologized to the court, his family, and to the community for dealing illegal drugs.

"I was dealing drugs before I knew it, to satisfy my addiction," Joyner said.

He said he made the wrong choice and made a mistake. "I need my family,

my counseling, my sobriety," he said.

Joyner's lawyer, Bruce Berline, had recommended a sentence of time already served and three years of supervised release, or home confinement.

Berline said that Joyner cooperated substantially with the government after he was arrested. During his release, Joyner made a strong presentation to students against illegal drug use.

"He's a small time drug dealer who is enslaved to addiction," the lawyer said.

Benedetto said Joyner was the organizer and in March 2008 alone, the defendant was involved in about 200 meth deals.

Benedetto said a jail term should be imposed as a deterrence, not to Joyner but to the community.

Joyner signed a plea agreement. He pleaded guilty to three counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

fair statement," he added.

We don't want to be minority'

Demapan said in the November 2009 election, some 3,000 of the estimated 16,000 individuals who cast their votes were U.S. citizens from outside the CNMI.

He said adding the 3,000 to the estimated 20,000 alien workers who may be covered by the proposed long-term status that include U.S. citizenship will easily topple the indigenous voters who number some 13,000.

"By virtue of the 3,000 and 20,000, there will be 23,000 possible voters who are from outside the Commonwealth people. ... That's what I'm trying to prevent, because by then, our people will become a minority. We will lose a lot of job opportunities, and the guest workers can have their own congressmen, senators, mayor, governor, lieutenant governor... I don't believe we should allow that to happen," Demapan said.

He said guest workers who came to work in the CNMI under an employment contract should go home once that contract expires.

Demapan said most of the indigenous population object to the Interior report, based on the village meetings that he has been conducting.

On Thursday night, for example, he held a village meeting in Tanapag where he said the attendees voiced their objection to the Interior report and recommendations.

Organizers of the rally are also fighting for the preservation and protection of land alienation or Article 12 of the Constitution, prohibiting ownership of land by non-Northern Marianas descent people.

A non-profit organization called the CNMI Women's Organization has also circulated a petition and online petition "vehemently opposing" the Interior report. The online petition has gathered 824 signatures as of 6:30pm yesterday.

The online petition can be accessed at www.petitiononline.com/4NMI/petition.html.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

World War II.

Nogis refused to talk to the media after the trial.

Joseph N. Camacho and Michael Evangelista, who served as counsels for Nogis, said they respect the court's decision.

Camacho and Evangelista said they presented their case that Nogis was just an invited guest to a family gathering at Micro Beach and that it was not an official campaign activity.

"Unfortunately, the court did not find the case in our favor," said Camacho, a U.S. Delegate candidate. Nogis is his campaign manager.

Camacho said he is committed to keeping the CNMI clean and beautiful.

"In fact, long before this unfortunate event, there were beautification projects and cleanup events already scheduled to be carried out by the Committee and supporters. Now that this is over, we can focus on the real work ahead," he said.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley had recommended a fine of \$4,700 representing the total expenses of the park staff for the cleanup, plus 90 hours of community work service.

Camacho objected to this, saying their client should not be penalized for exercising his right by going to a trial.

At the trial, O'Malley called to the witness stand National Park maintenance Manuel Muña, Park maintenance supervisor Vicente C. Attao, Park Ranger Nancy A. Kelchner, and Park Ranger Bryan C. Piercy.

O'Malley showed the court several

photographs of the trash left at the baseball field on April 26, 2010.

The government's witnesses essentially testified how they came across the big pile of trash in the baseball field in the morning of April 26.

The picnic tables had the words "Ben & Eloy" printed on them so Kelchner called the Office of the Governor to inquire as to the tables' owners. Kelchner said a certain Fleming stated that Nogis obtained the picnic tables.

Kelchner said that after repeatedly calling Nogis on the phone, he called back so she asked him to proceed to the Park.

She said Nogis admitted organizing the party and that he had no permit for the gathering.

Evangelista moved for Nogis' acquittal as the U.S. government failed to prove that their client disposed of any of the trash. The judge denied the motion.

The defense's witnesses—Angelica Mangarero, Manuel Q. Camacho, and Rita Chong Dela Cruz—said they did not see Nogis littering during the party.

In his closing arguments, O'Malley said this case is more than just about littering. "This case is about taking responsibility," he said.

He said Nogis, as campaign manager for Camacho, should have set an example for the community. "Someone has to take responsibility," O'Malley said.

Camacho said there were a lot of photos of the trash, but there's no testimony that Nogis himself was the one littering. Camacho said his client was not cited for not having a permit. "We're defending a littering charge," he said.

Camacho said no one ever testified that Nogis himself threw the trash.

BRIEFS

From Page 2

2010. To access the live broadcast, go to: www.ustream.tv/channel/nmc-2010-graduation. (PR)

Cancer Survivor Support meeting Monday night

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the survivor support meeting on Monday night, May 24, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, starting at 5pm. This month's survivor support meeting will include a presentation on stress management, communication strategies for survivors and caregivers, and resources available for individuals and families at the Community Guidance Center, followed by survivors-only discussion.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Joanne Ogo at 236-8728 or e-mail joanne.ogo@gmail.com. (PR)

Air Force sets training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 27 from 7am to 8pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour oper-

ators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)

DPS sets seatbelt, child seat checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting Occupant Protection Child Restraint checkpoints on the island of Rota on May 25 and 27.

The May 25, 2010 OP/CR checkpoint will first be held along San Francisco Highway Songsong Village by the Pinatang Park, from 6am to about 7:15am. The second will be in District #4 across the Aquarius Bar & Grill, from 9am to about 10:15am.

On May 27, the checkpoint will be held along Sinapalo I Village by the San Isidro Church, from 6am to 7:15am. (DPS)

RALLY

From Page 1

Ignacio DLG. Demapan, who took his oath of office as resident executive director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs yesterday, said the indigenous population should not be made a "minority" in their own land.

"This is to show the spirit of protecting and defending our indigenous rights. We feel that should the U.S. Congress grant [long-term status to] the 20,000-plus guest workers, it would be detrimental to us and will cause unintended economic and political consequences. We have to stand and defend our rights because if we don't, we will become a minority," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* after acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos swore him into office in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

He called on the indigenous population, their friends and supporters to join what he describes as a "mass rally." He also called for "indigenous justice."

"We object to the Interior report, period," he said.

The rally will be held on May 29, a Sunday, at the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe, across the road from the Guma Hustisia.

Organizers have yet to finalize the time as of yesterday, but Demapan said it may be held from 10am to 3pm.

Demapan also said guest workers should not be allowed to dictate the future of the CNMI.

"For example, a guest worker who came in as a taxi driver, a guest worker who came in as a strip dancer, a guest worker who came in as a construction worker, now we're going to allow these people to dictate the future of the indigenous people of the Commonwealth? I don't think it's right. I don't think it's proper. I think what we should do is have status quo, because they came in under an employment contract," he added.

Demapan also said guest workers are exactly that—"guests."

"So when I come to your house, and spend some time in there, does that give me authority to dictate which room I'm going to stay in or how long I'm going to stay in your house? These guest workers are guest workers. They came on employment contract. That means when their contract expires, they have to go back, not to dictate the future of indigenous people," he added.

Based on 2008 data, the CNMI's foreign worker population was estimated at over 23,500, exceeding the local workforce of over 12,000. Chamorros and Carolinians were also conferred U.S. citizenship in 1986. The indigenous people's rally is not sanctioned by the government, but is initiated by volunteers, including Demapan and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan).

It will be held some two weeks after thousands of nonresident workers, their families and supporters held a motorcade and peaceful assembly to show strong support to the Interior report and recommendation of long-term immigration status for alien workers who have resided in the CNMI for at least five years.

The guest workers called on the U.S. Congress to immediately act on the Interior recommendations.

No ill-feelings

Diego Blanco, who is also one of the organizers for the rally, pointed out that he and the rest of the organizers do not have ill-feelings toward foreign workers, whom they said have helped build the CNMI economy.

"I want to emphasize that I have nothing against guest workers. We appreciate their contributions to the economy," said Blanco, who is also a member of the Commonwealth Zoning Board and the business development manager for GPPC Inc.

Just like Demapan, Blanco invited the community to take part in the rally.

"The gathering will show everybody that we indigenous people are still around; that we should be consulted by anyone on issues affecting us. That's a

Buatis rules Taste of the Marianas SPAM Cook-off

SPAM enthusiasts got their eyes full and a taste of one of their favorites at last Saturday's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden as eight competitors vied for the SPAM™ Cook-off Competition championship title.

From entries ranging from "Spam Lumpia" to "Spam Centipede Maki Roll," contestants attempted to win the judges' hearts with tantalizing dishes in the categories of original appetizer, casserole, stew, stir-fry, salad or sandwich.

First place went to Miriam B. Buatis with her winning dish, "Spicy Burrito Spam." Buatis received \$150 cash. Second place and \$50 cash went to Kathleen Bowen with her spunky "Spamato," while third place was garnered by Priscilla J. Pangelinan. All winners also received a SPAM™ Gift Basket. The event was sponsored by

D&Q, Hormel Foods, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"SPAM is a dish that many residents grew up with at the dinner table, so it's fitting to give guests a taste of it at the festival," said Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. "We're happy to have had such enthusiastic and creative participation from the amateur cooks who joined the competition."

The Taste of the Marianas is held each Saturday in May by the MVA and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands in celebration of Tourism Month. The event begins at 6pm and features reasonably priced dishes from local hotels and restaurants, free live entertainment, and weekly competitions.

Today's competition will pit 14 island bartenders in the Bartender's Cocktail Competition beginning at 6pm. (MVA)



Winners, contestants, and sponsors of the SPAM Cook-off Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 15. This Saturday's Taste will feature the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition beginning at 6 p.m. The festival is a weekly event put on in May by the Marianas Visitors Authority at American Memorial Park, Saipan.

MVA

Bordallo speaks of Guam political status before Senate panel hearing



Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo and U.S. Rep Pedro Pierluisi of Puerto Rico present testimony at yesterday's oversight hearing.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo offered testimony Thursday in support of her bill, H.R. 3940, at an oversight hearing of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The Committee is chaired by Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who is the committee's Ranking Member, along with Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, and Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky were also in attendance at yesterday's hearing.

The Committee also received testimony on other insular area issues, namely H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2010; the proposed Constitution of the U.S. Virgin

Islands; and S. 2941, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Supplemental Nuclear Compensation Act of 2010.

In her capacity as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, Bordallo urged the Senate committee to complete their consideration of these matters.

H.R. 3940 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend technical assistance grants and other assistance to facilitate a political status public education program in Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Bordallo introduced H.R. 3940 on Nov. 2, 2009 and was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 7, 2009. The bill, which is supported by the Obama administration, local elected offi-

cials, and decolonization and indigenous rights advocates in Guam, must be passed out of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources before being put to a vote in the full U.S. Senate.

"The issue of political status remains a priority for Guam and the other non-self-governing territories," Bordallo said. "In my testimony I stated that each territory is on its own timeline and path for political status resolution, and that our people must be afforded the ability to exercise their right to self-determination and express their desire for a permanent status. H.R. 3940 would authorize federal funding to conduct political status education programs to inform people in the territories of their political options." (PR)

Pacific-wide music competition seeks untapped talents

ABC Radio Australia has just kicked off its music competition, Pacific Break, searching for the best unsigned musical talent across the Pacific.

Pacific Break has been running for two years and in that time they have received hundreds of entries from all over the Pacific, but not yet one

from the North Pacific. In the first year, the winning act—26 Roots—came from Vanuatu and last year's winner, Emmanuel Mailau, was from PNG.

The winning band/solo artist is flown to Port Vila, Vanuatu to perform live in front of a huge crowd at Fest'napanuan—a fantastic four-day Pan-Pacific music festival. A selection of finalists and outstanding entries will also be featured on a Pacific Break compilation CD that Radio Australia puts together at the end of the competition each year. They also showcase some of the entries each week on their afternoon music program, In the Loop, on Radio Australia and entries are posted on the Web site and shared with the online community of Pacific music fans. The philosophy behind it all is to provide opportunities for musicians in the Pacific to get their music heard.

Radio Australia operates the competition across their network of 11 24-hour FM stations in the Pacific but they are stretching the competition out across the Pacific by engaging with local

partners to help spread the word about the competition.

If partners are keen to be involved in supporting this initiative, Radio Australia provides them with Pacific Break merchandise—poster, caps,

compilation CDs from 2009 and some entry forms. If you could let people

know about the competition, put the poster up on the wall and distribute some entry forms to any local musicians you think might be interested in taking part in the competition that would be great!

To enter, musicians just have to send us their original song on cassette, CD or mp3 along with a completed and signed entry form. Musicians can send in

their entries directly by post or by email.

Entries are open until Sept. 1. Then, in the first week of September, Radio Australia will organise a panel of judges in Australia to select the winning entry.

Pacific Break also has a Web site, www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacificbreak. On the Web site one can download entry forms, find details about how to enter and the blog will also chart the progress of the Pacific Break Competition. At the moment the blog has some great interview with entrants in last year's competition as well as some snippets from Fest'napanuan 2009.

Coordinating the competition this year is Sally McMahon. She may be contacted via e-mail at Sally.Joanne@abc.net.au. (PR)

Child carseat checkpoints on Monday

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting courtesy car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on Saipan on Monday, May 24, 2010.

The first checkpoint will be held on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by the residence of Dr. Kaipat on the southbound outer lane, from 8:30am to 9:45am.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold 2W Chalan Laulau in front of IT&E Building, on the southbound outer lane, from 8:30pm to 9:45pm.

Each checkpoint will last at

least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan Rangamor at 664-9085/84 or DPS-PIO Police Officer Eric David at 483-9032. (DPS)

involved in caring for our environment," Palacios said. "I will try to seek the most effective ways to increase the involvement of people who will act to improve and maintain our environments health."

The internship coincides with Palacios' involvement with the UOG Green Initiative. As a UOG Green intern, he actively participates in efforts focused on sustaining the islands environment and strives to influence simple positive environmental behavior change in the community. (PR)

UOG student accepted to NMI coral reef internship program

This Summer University of Guam student Francisco Kiko Palacios, a communication major with a public relations concentration, has been accepted to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 2010 Coral Reef Summer Internship.

The internship revolves around a variety of coastal environmental protection and measurement activities including: marine monitoring, working

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Are we becoming addicted to technology?

People are not shocked and amazed by technology like they used to be. It has become normal for grandmothers to check the weather, send a text, pay a bill and look up a restaurant review in about five minutes on the same device—all while listening to music, of course.

At this point, though, technology threatens to infiltrate some of our lives to the brink of being too much.

A recent study done at the University of Maryland found people might be addicted to technology. After asking a group of college students to give up all technology for 24 hours, including iPods, cellphones and laptops, participants reported feelings of withdrawal and anxiety.

That is not so surprising, considering children age 8 through 18 spend an average 7.5 hours per day using such devices. Or that half of teens, 12 through 17, report sending 50 or more text messages per day, and one-third send 100 or more.

One study participant described sending a text message every minute or so, and felt ashamed for not being able to go 24 hours without a cellphone.

Even more damaging than occupying the time of teenagers is the potential effect so much technology might have on how children develop.

Researchers are beginning to question if they will become less interested in face-to-face interactions, which are important for social and emotional skills, such as reading body language or feeling empathy.

Technology has been beneficial in many ways. Some parents point out that social-networking sites such as Facebook have been particularly helpful in starting friendships for children too shy to interact in person. The question is, how big of a role should technology play in our lives?

Sending text messages every few minutes and spending more than seven hours a day using technology is just too much. Parents would do well to initiate some changes to ensure they are not contributing to creation of a generation of socially and emotionally inept children.



Vietnam ousted the murderous Khmer Rouge by force; expecting peaceful change in North Korea is folly

By DONALD KIRK
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Is the regime of Kim Jong Il the cruelest the world has seen since Adolf Hitler's in Germany or Josef Stalin's in the Soviet Union? For all the world has heard about North Korea and its people's suffering, the answer is no. The dubious distinction of cruelest probably belongs to Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. That regime took over Cambodia in 1975 and ruled from the once-tranquil capital of Phnom Penh until December 1978, when Vietnamese communist troops drove it out. About 2 million people are estimated to have died at the hands of the Khmer Rouge, from disease, starvation, executions and torture.

The suffering under the Khmer Rouge is resonant with the plight North Koreans have endured for many more years. Today, however, Phnom Penh is bustling, alive with shops selling an incredible variety of silk, statuary, silver objects and souvenirs. Restaurants offer just about any menu. The streets are swarming with traffic as motor scooters dart in and out and larger vehicles carry people and commercial products. Motorcycles pulling what look like small, old-fashioned carriages offer taxi services. Internet cafes thrive in every marketplace. Casinos and nightclubs lure those in search of higher-priced fun, and the National Museum and Royal Palace offer lush and rich glimpses of Khmer civilization and heritage going back 2,000 years.

So what lesson is there—for North Korea and the world—in the transformation of Cambodia from a frightening dictatorship into a hustling if not exactly democratic society? The revelation of North Korea's role in torpedoing a South Korean navy ship in March, with the loss of 46 lives, suggests why it's necessary to transform rule in the North as urgently as it was to end the Khmer Rouge's rule in Cambodia nearly 22 years ago.

Cambodia's current system, in which Hun Sen has ruled as prime minister, with the backing of Vietnam, almost continuously for 25 years, is not at all ideal. Many of the country's 15 million people continue to suffer economically. And it's fair to assume that torture and killings go on, although not on a mass scale.

In an imperfect world, however, Cambodia gives every appearance of having recovered its erstwhile reputation as an "oasis of peace." That was how Prince Norodom Sihanouk described his kingdom when navigating a treacherous course of neutrality as American and South Vietnamese forces fought the North Vietnamese until the U.S.-backed regime fell in Vietnam two weeks after the defeat of Cambodia in 1975. It was a measure of Sihanouk's incredible finesse that he was able to return to Cambodia under the

Khmer Rouge, even though a number of his children were killed by the forces that isolated him in his quarters.

Sihanouk has somehow survived, even though he has no real power. He is more or less a king emeritus, a revered figure who is able to appear above the tawdry power politics that periodically shakes up the elite six years after his eldest surviving son, Norodom Sihamoni, was crowned as his successor.

The Pol Pot regime had to fall, and the men around him—those responsible for forms of torture comparable to the security apparatus of North Korea's "Dear Leader," Kim Jong Il—had to flee, be killed or be captured. They had to disappear forever. That should not be lost on South Koreans or their U.S. ally in weighing how far to go in attempting reconciliation or "talks" with North Korea. Someone in responsibility has to face the question: At what point does intervention become necessary?

In that debate, the Khmer Rouge comparison assumes still greater relevance. The question is how was it that the forces of a communist country—against which the Americans and South Vietnamese, supported by two divisions of South Koreans, had fought for a generation—accomplished such a stunning success for the everlasting benefit of the Cambodian people? The answer in part is that Vietnam, after the communist victory in 1975, was never a terrible dictatorship. As Vietnam's leadership went through its own tortuous policy shifts, market capitalism began to flourish. Vietnamese gained a level of cultural and economic freedom that had not appeared possible in 1975. Moreover, Ho Chi Minh, who led Vietnam's communist regime until his death in 1969, never gained a reputation for pervasive cruelty over his own people, even as he ruthlessly suppressed opponents.

It's difficult to compare such different societies and cultures as those in Cambodia and North Korea, but the lesson is clear. There can be no real compromise with the Kim regime. The history of regimes such as Cambodia's under the Khmer Rouge is that they do not willingly yield, do not suddenly adopt humanitarian policies and do not give up the props of their rule, notably their weapons. It's wishful thinking to expect North Korea to shift its policies or honor any agreement on much of anything, including its nuclear weapons program. It took an upheaval to bring about relief from suffering in Cambodia, and it will take another on that scale to reform North Korea.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The future of oil and water

By JOSHUA REICHERT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The explosion and sinking of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig brings into sharp focus not only a tragic loss of life but also the fragmented and inadequate way in which we manage and protect the nation's critical marine resources and the fragile ocean environment. Scientifically sound and precautionary policies to reconcile the needs of safety, energy security, sustainable fisheries and environmental protection have become urgent.

Even as families and friends of the dead and injured must deal with their losses, others must try to cap, siphon off and dispose of the escaping oil, because the consequences wait for nobody. And neither does planning for the future. Coastal communities, commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism and the marine ecosystem itself remain at risk from this event and future such disasters.

The Deepwater Horizon rig was actually drilling an exploratory well. And although reports initially indicated a small spill, it now seems clear this will be one of the worst offshore drilling disasters in U.S. history, not only in terms of life and limb but also with respect to environmental and economic consequences.

We have learned much from spills like the Exxon Valdez, about how oil affects marine life, ecosystems, coastal communities, fisheries and subsistence economies. For one, significant oil still remains along the rocky beaches of Prince William Sound, more than 20 years later. Further, research has shown that polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons—

Time travel? Maybe

By DAVE GOLDBERG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Imagine that you're a science-fiction writer on a tight schedule. You'd like to play in the vast expanses of the universe, but you have too much scientific integrity to conjure up a warp drive or a DeLorean out of thin air. You're also concerned that your audience would get bored in the thousands of years that it would take for a spaceship to realistically travel the distances between stars. What you really need is a wormhole—a shortcut through time and space. Best of all, unlike most science-fiction tropes, wormholes might very well be real.

Seventy-five years ago, Albert Einstein and his collaborator, Nathan Rosen, submitted a paper to the *Physical Review* with the goal of unifying gravity and electromagnetism. Although they failed to discover a theory of everything, they did something arguably more much important: By creating the first theoretical model of a wormhole, Einstein and Rosen allowed science-fiction writers—including Arthur C. Clarke, Madeleine L'Engle and the writers of “Babylon 5” and “Doctor Who”—to explore vast stretches of space and time in the blink of an eye.

From the outside, an Einstein-Rosen bridge, as wormholes were originally known, looks a lot like its cousin, the black hole. And I risk having my official Physics Badge revoked if I don't tell you, ideally in a spooky voice, that “nothing can escape from a black hole—not even light.”

Einstein and Rosen made a very bold supposition: What if a traveler fell into the mouth of something that looked like a black hole,

components of crude oil that are highly resistant to weathering—are also highly toxic to marine life. For example, fish larvae exposed to concentrations in the parts per billion range—equivalent to a drop of water in a swimming pool—show developmental deformities and reduced survival. So while we naturally focus on the images of oiled seabirds and contaminated beaches, these effects portray just the surface, not what occurs down to the ocean floor.

Indeed, we understand little about the full range of impacts from using potentially harmful chemicals to disperse massive quantities of oil throughout the water column, or from burning it on the surface, where it contributes to both air and water pollution. Making the problem of an oil spill less visible doesn't mean the issue has been solved or the danger averted.

As the administration and Congress investigate this accident they will likely identify numerous ways to increase drilling safety. But key decisions on if and how to proceed with future oil and gas development should also include thoughtful measures to protect our marine environment and coastal economies.

First, we must be extremely selective about where to drill. Special places, like the rich fishing grounds of Georges Bank, off New England, and Bristol Bay, in Alaska, should be off limits. President Obama recently removed Bristol Bay—temporarily—from threat of incursion, but Congress should now provide permanent protection for regions where the costs and risks of drilling exceed likely benefits.

It's also instructive that in a recent decision to allow Shell to drill in the Arctic Ocean, the Minerals Management Service said

the probability of an oil spill at exploration was “insignificant.” But the Deepwater Horizon disaster should now prompt considerably greater caution about drilling in such places, which pose immeasurably more hostile conditions.

Furthermore, royalties from offshore development already return substantial sums to the Treasury. Since we obtain oil and gas from our oceans at considerable risk all around, it's reasonable that a portion of the revenue be reinvested in ocean and coastal conservation and management. Safe extraction of nonrenewable resources should maintain, enhance and insure the renewable bounty of the sea.

Finally, we need a national policy that will integrate decisions about offshore development—for both renewable and nonrenewable energy—with considerations not only of safety and security but also commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, shipping and the invaluable ecosystem services provided by healthy oceans. The administration is currently considering a report from an interagency task force, which recommended just such a vehicle.

All uses of the ocean should be considered through rigorous, scientifically valid assessments of the potential impacts and benefits. If offshore oil and gas development continues to be a part of the picture it should not be at the expense of either safety or the other economic and environmental values our oceans provide.

Joshua Reichert is the managing director of the Pew Environment Group, 901 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004; e-mail: reichert@pewtrusts.org.

friend Carl Sagan, who was then working on the novel “Contact.” Thorne found that it was theoretically possible to construct models of wormholes, but they would require the existence of as-yet undiscovered “exotic matter”—strange stuff that has less than zero mass—to keep them open. Unlike Einstein-Rosen bridges, Thorne's model was bi-directional and, more important, stable.

This all might seem like good news, but the fine print on wormholes is pretty daunting when you get into it. For one thing, we've never discovered anything like the exotic matter needed to prop wormholes open, and for another, we're not sure how we—or even a supercivilization—could punch a hole through the universe to create one in the first place. Furthermore, the idea of time travel is so anathema to many respectable physicists that some, including Stephen Hawking, have proposed a “chronology protection conjecture,” basically insisting that physics must somehow outlaw time machines in order to keep “the universe safe for historians.”

Theoretical physicists have the luxury of being able to invent things that don't, or perhaps can't, exist. In the three-quarters of a century since Einstein thought up wormholes, we haven't come close to observing one, though we've gotten some fantastic science fiction in the bargain. It may be that in science fact, if we want to explore the galaxy, it would be much easier to do so without trying to rip up the fabric of space-time in the process.

*Dave Goldberg is the author, with Jeff Blomquist, of *A User's Guide to the Universe: Surviving the Perils of Black Holes, Time Paradoxes, and Quantum Uncertainty*. He is an associate professor of Physics at Drexel University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

Letters to the Editor

Thank you, Tony Babauta

Mr. Tony Babauta is a godsend to the CNMI. For years the CNMI government ignored the federal government's warning to shape up or the feds will take over. Tony Babauta, the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, is from this region and understands our way of life in the CNMI; he is the most qualified to make recommendations to the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Babauta's involvement with the Natural Resources Committee over the years allows him to understand the scope of the

Be thankful for your blessings

Reply to Glenn Manglona: Yes, you were slaves to the Spanish for 300 years as were the other islands of the Pacific, including Hawaii and the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico. All of South America and half of America was taken from the Indians and controlled by the Spanish until the Spanish-American war ended in 1898.

All of these islands chose their own government. Puerto Rico, like the CNMI, became a commonwealth. Hawaii became a state. What's the difference between a commonwealth and a state? They both have self-government locally but both negotiated to be what they are now. As such the CNMI joined

relationship between the CNMI and the federal government. For us to judge him as an incompetent individual means we are either not aware of his knowledge or we are just plain ignorant.

Since the passage of U.S. Public Law 110-229, hope is on the horizon for many of our brothers and sisters in the CNMI. Many of them toil to better our way of life in the Marianas and we thank them by opposing the Interior's recommendation to the U.S. Congress. Many of us accused Mr. Babauta of being biased and we try to discredit him. Don't blame him for the mistakes that our previous leaders made. We should appreciate that we have someone like him working for the betterment of our people.

Puerto Rico and the 50 states under the U.S. federal government, which unites us all.

That union for the 50 states is different than what the CNMI asked for and that's why you can't vote for president. If the CNMI cut its relationship with the U.S. government you would lose all federal money and military protection. Everything you get from America would be no more—you would get nothing—and Chamorros could lose their citizenship, which means you could no longer go to the U.S. mainland or Guam. How would you pay for the Army Reserve unit on Saipan, and how could you protect your

contract workers in the CNMI contributed to our economic growth for years. In accordance with the United States immigration regulations and guidelines, most of these individuals are qualified to become United States citizens. Let us support them to become United States citizens as a token of appreciation on our part. Mr. Tony Babauta is a godsend to the CNMI, because he would be the instrument to make it happen. *Si Yu's Ma'ase siñot Tony Babauta.*

Segundo Castro

*Saipan Tinian Student Association
Stockton, California*

selves from military aggressors like Japan was? How long would it take for some other country to come and make you slaves like Spain and Japan did?

There is an old saying: “Bbe careful what you wish for, you might get it.” Remember, America agreed to help the CNMI, financially, for seven years or until 1993—and they are still helping you. Look at your blessings and be thankful.

Franklin Keiper
Mayer, Arizona

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Majuro	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 80 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 74
London	Fog	▲ 71 ▼ 53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 94 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 60
Osaka	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 62
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 52
Pusan	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 56
Salem	Thundershowers	▲ 56 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 46
Seoul	Showers	▲ 66 ▼ 60
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 63
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 76 ▼ 66

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:45 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
9:15 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.7 Feet
2:29 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
8:45 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:47 AM	6:41 PM	Today	1:20 PM	1:00 AM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM	Sunday	2:15 PM	1:42 AM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM	Monday	3:12 PM	2:24 AM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM	Tuesday	4:09 PM	3:08 AM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM	Wednesday	5:07 PM	3:54 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES			
ARRIVALS			

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
07608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
07607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			

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Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBC Classes: 4:30pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville

Sunday Services 9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanao Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 22, 2000

Guerrero defends CUC vs Lang's criticisms

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero has defended the agency from criticisms leveled by former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio who has slammed their recent decisions for allegedly violating its policies and regulations. In a letter to the ex-chief executive responding to accusations, he sought to justify the board's actions, saying that they were done in accordance with the law. Mr. Tenorio earlier has written to the CUC chair asking him to suspend board's activities as he expressed alarm at the alleged ignorance by some of the members on their responsibilities and duties to the government corporation.

Teacher recruitment extends to Guam

While the two-day teacher recruitment fair last week recorded over 47 applicants locally, a similar recruitment fair was simultaneously conducted on Guam to fill some 60 vacant teaching positions at the Public School System. PSS has sent Assistant Human Resources Officer Frank Agulto to the Guam Liaison Office to scout for eligible teachers. The Human Resources Office said it drew quite a positive turnout of applicants here and on Guam. Interested parties from the states also submitted resumes. "We have more than enough applicants," an HR officer said, referring to the original eligibility listing which already had 57 qualified applicants to begin with.

May 22, 2001

Suspected FMD-tainted canned products seized

Forty cases of confiscated imported canned goods suspected to be infected with foot and mouth disease were ordered incinerated by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources yesterday. DLNR officials ordered the immediate destruction of the imported sausages from the Philippines after quarantine officers refused to release the merchandise to a licensed businessmen on Saipan. DLNR media liaison officer Mariane Teregeyo said quarantine officers detailed at the Saipan Harbor reported the arrival of canned meat sauces with prohibited ingredients Friday afternoon.

Import-export revenues may drop to 3-year low

Earnings from excise tax and user fee for the financial year 2001 is likely to become the lowest in three years, based on current figures obtained from the CNMI Division of Customs Services. Customs Director Jose C. Mafnas said that if the current collection trend continues, government revenue from excise tax and user fee could reach a shortfall of as much as \$3 million. Figures released by the division for the first seven months of the fiscal year, indicate that collections from excise tax and user fee averaged \$5.15 million during the period October 2000-April 2001.

May 22, 2002

'Allocate \$2-M Compact funds to PSS, DPH, DPS'

Instead of dividing the \$2 million Compact Impact money among the three senatorial districts, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has moved to allocate it to the three primary public services: education, public health and public safety. In a move that House Speaker Heinz S. Hofsneider described as evidence of the "big heart" of Saipan lawmakers, the delegation adopted a resolution yesterday that would allocate the \$2 million that the CNMI recently received as Compact Impact payments for Fiscal Year 2002 to the Public School System, the Department of Public Health and Department of Public Safety. More notable, however, was the floor amendment made on Resolution 13-07, which effectively locks all future Compact Impact compensations to the three agencies and clips the Governor's powers in allocating the money elsewhere.

Miller wants proof of NMI labor reforms

Though supportive in helping the Commonwealth achieve long-term economic stability, U.S. Rep. George Miller is, however, seeking proof of the CNMI's sincerity in implementing labor reforms. Toward this goal, his office has asked Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio to provide the American congressman with documents and reports on specific labor matters, with particular focus on the status of nonresident worker recruitment in the garment industry. In a letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Tenorio said he recently met with Dr. John Lawrence of Rep. Miller's office "and found him to be very open and interested in assisting the CNMI achieve long-term economic stability. However, he asked to update on reforms that you and Rep. Miller discussed earlier."

Business

Senate passes massive Wall Street regulation bill

culture of "too big to fail."

Four Republicans—Sens. Charles Grassley of Iowa, Scott Brown of Massachusetts, and Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine—broke ranks with their party to support it. Twice the Senate had to beat back efforts by Republicans to delay the bill before achieving final passage.

"The decisions we've made will have an impact on the lives of Americans for decades to come," said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., who voted against the legislation. "Judgment will not be rendered by self-congratulatory press releases, but, rather, by the marketplace. And the marketplace does not give credit for good intentions."

While Republicans succeeded in amending the bill, they still objected to its sweep, claiming it represented an expansion of government power that would have unintended consequences.

Democrats argued it was a potent response to the financial abuses, regulatory weaknesses and consumer misjudgments that plunged the nation deep into recession.

"To Wall Street, it says: No longer can you recklessly gamble away other people's money," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "It says the days of too big to fail are behind us. It says to those who game the system: The game is over."

As House and Senate negotiators meet to work out differences in the bills, the common ground between the two bills will likely tilt toward making the bill tougher on banks rather than weaker. If anything, the political environment has grown more populist since the House passed its bill in December.

Unemployment still hovers around 10 percent, big banks have declared significant if not record profits, and Goldman Sachs is fighting off accusations of fraud from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Loling Field is newest BoG VP

HAGATNA, GUAM—The board of directors, management and staff of the Bank of Guam are proud to announce the promotion of Dolores "Loling" Field to vice president/enterprise risk manager.

A 29-year banking veteran, Field was with the Bank of the Orient for 10 years before joining the Bank of Guam in 1991. She served as the assistant branch manager and then branch manager for the bank before being promoted to vice president - training coordinator and then business services division manager in 1995.



Field rejoined the Bank of Guam in 2009 as the enterprise risk manager. An alumna of Notre Dame High School, Field received an Associates of Science Degree in Nursing

from the University of Guam in 1979. She is a 2009 graduate of the prestigious Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington.

Field joined Citizens Security

Nation

Syrupy oil washes into La. marshes for first time

GRAND ISLE, La. (AP)—The spectacle many had feared for a month finally began unfolding as gooey, rust-colored oil washed into the marshes at the mouth of the Mississippi for the first time, stoking public anger and frustration with both BP and the government.

The sense of gloom deepened as BP conceded what some scientists have been saying for weeks: that the oil leak at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico is bigger than the company previously estimated.

Up to now, only tar balls and a sheen of oil had come ashore. But on Wednesday, chocolate brown and vivid orange globs, sheets and ribbons of foul-smelling oil the consistency of latex paint began coating the reeds and grasses of Louisiana's wetlands, home to rare birds, mammals and a rich variety of marine life.

There were no immediate reports of any mass die-offs of wildlife or large numbers of creatures wriggling in oil, as seen after the Exxon Valdez disaster, but that was the fear.

Billy Nungesser, president of Louisiana's Plaquemines Parish, toured the oil-fouled marshes Wednesday and said: "Had you fallen off that boat yesterday and come up breathing that stuff, you probably wouldn't be here."

A live video feed of the underwater gusher, posted online Thursday after lawmakers exerted pressure on BP, is sure to fuel the anger.

It shows what appears to be a large plume of oil and gas still spewing into the water next to the stopper-and-tube combination that BP inserted to carry some of the crude to the surface. The



National Wildlife Federation program manager Maura Wood examines oil in the water of the Louisiana coast at the Mississippi River delta south of Venice, La. AP

House committee website where the video was posted promptly crashed because so many people were trying to view it.

"These videos stand as a scalding,

blistering indictment of BP's inattention to the scope and size of the greatest environmental catastrophe in the history of the United States," said Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.

National intelligence director resigning

WASHINGTON (AP)—National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair said Thursday he is resigning, ending a tumultuous 16-month tenure marked by intelligence failures and turf wars among the country's spy agencies.

Blair, a retired Navy admiral, is the third director of national intelligence, a position created in response to public outrage over the failure to prevent the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In a message to his work force, Blair said his last day would be May 28.

Two government officials said several candidates have been interviewed

for the national intelligence director's job, which is to oversee the nation's 16 intelligence agencies. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement had not yet been made.

His term in office was marked by turf battles with the CIA director and controversial public comments in the wake of the abortive Christmas Day jetliner bombing.

CIA Director Leon Panetta and Blair squared off in May over Blair's effort to choose a personal representative at U.S. embassies to be his eyes and ears

abroad, instead of relying on CIA station chiefs, as had been past practice.

Word of Blair's resignation, first reported by ABC News, comes two days after a Senate report criticized his office and other intelligence agencies for new failings that allowed a would-be bomber to board a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day. The Senate Intelligence Committee found that the National Counterterrorism Center was in a position to connect intelligence that could have prevented the potentially deadly attack. As director of national intelligence, Blair oversaw the center.

Oil spill caught in loop current

Ocean scientists predict the Gulf of Mexico's strong loop current will bring some oil to Key West by the weekend.

Oil in the loop

- Scientists can't say how much oil will drift into the loop
- Most of the oil is still near sunken rig

Tuesday Tar balls found on Key West; oil residue seen further west on Dry Tortugas

Oil spill Mon., May 17

Front edge of oil

- x Sunken rig
- Forecast location

1 Thurs., May 20

2 Wed., May 26

3 Fri., May 28

MEX.

Source: Dr. R. Weisberg and associates, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida



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Paul tries to defuse controversy on discrimination

WASHINGTON (AP)—A tea party conservative on a national stage, Republican Senate candidate Rand Paul of Kentucky labored Thursday to explain remarks suggesting businesses be allowed to deny service to blacks without fear of federal interference, declaring, "I abhor racial discrimination."

In a written statement, Paul said, "I believe we should work to end all racism in American society and staunchly defend the inherent rights of every person."

Paul told CNN he would have voted for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a statement he declined to make one day earlier.

On Wednesday, Paul expressed support for the act's provisions banning discrimination in public facilities, but he had misgivings about extending the same requirement to private businesses—then or now.

"Do you think that a private business has the right to say we don't serve black people?" he was asked

by MSNBC's Rachel Maddow on Wednesday.

"Yes. I'm not in favor of any discrimination of any form," Paul said at the beginning of a lengthy answer in which he likened the question to one about limiting freedom of speech for racists. "I don't want to be associated with those people, but I also don't want to limit their speech in any way in the sense that we tolerate boorish and uncivilized behavior because that's one of the things freedom requires."

The issue arose little more than 24 hours after the political novice swept to a landslide Republican primary victory, defeating a rival recruited by Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell and others who feared Paul's brand of conservatism might make him unelectable in the fall. The seat is currently held by retiring Republican Sen. Jim Bunning, and the party can ill afford to lose it if it is to seriously challenge Democratic control in the fall.

ACROSS THE NATION

Astute NJ mom outs Census worker as sex offender

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey mother who recognized the face of a Census worker from the state's online database of sex offenders called police, leading to charges that the man used a fake name and Social Security number to get the government job. Amy Schmalbach told The Philadelphia Inquirer that she usually doesn't open the door when she's at her Pennsauken home alone with her toddler son, but she did for the Census worker on May 4 because he was a government official. Schmalbach said she spoke with the man, who identified himself as "Jamie," on her porch and remembered seeing

a similar looking man on the state's website of registered sex offenders. The face stood out because the man had 16 aliases, including "Phantom Flam" and "Toot Flynn," she said.

Police: Body found is 12-year-old Colorado girl

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—Police confirmed Thursday that a body found in an irrigation ditch in northern Colorado is that of a missing 12-year-old girl who was last seen walking to a friend's house for a birthday party. Greeley Police Chief Jerry Garner said the body recovered Wednesday is that of Kayleah Wilson, of Greeley, and that the coroner's office ruled the death was a homicide. He said police know the "manner and

cause" of death, but he declined to provide details. No one has been arrested. The decomposed body had been in the irrigation ditch "for some time" in an area that had been searched twice, Garner said. Greeley is about 60 miles northeast of Denver.

Hundreds of birds seized in cockfighting raids

ESCONDIDO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say San Diego County animal service officers have seized about 500 birds believed to be bred for cockfighting from a property north of Escondido. Search warrants also were served Thursday at a home in Fullerton and at a restaurant in Anaheim in Orange County. Animal services spokesman Dan

DeSousa says all three properties are owned by a 66-year-old man and are believed to be part of the same operation. Authorities say they also seized hundreds of knives, which can be attached to the fighting birds' legs. Cockfighting trophies and photographs were seized at the Anaheim restaurant.

2 Ark. police killed during traffic stop on I-40

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. (AP)—Two police officers doing anti-drug work along a busy Arkansas interstate were shot and killed by two men with AK-47s on Thursday, and the suspects later died in a separate shootout with police in a crowded Walmart parking

lot, authorities said. West Memphis Police Inspector Bert Shelton said officers were "running drug interdiction" on Interstate 40 in east Arkansas when they pulled over a white van with Ohio license plates. The two men got out of the van and opened fire on the officers with AK-47s, he said. Brandon Paudert, the son of West Memphis' police chief, died at the scene and Bill Evans died at a hospital. Traffic stopped as authorities searched vehicles on Interstate 40 looking for the suspects, who were later spotted in the parking lot of a nearby Walmart. Dozens of officers swarmed the van and both suspects were shot and killed, authorities said. The Crittenden County sheriff and his chief deputy were wounded in the shootout.

Asia

SKorea calls for cautious response to ship sinking

SEOUL, South Korea

(AP)—South Korea's president said Friday his country was caught in a "perfect military ambush" when a North Korean torpedo sank a naval warship, but called for a cautious response to the disaster that left 46 sailors dead.

President Lee Myung-bak made the comments at an emergency national security meeting convened one day after an official report concluded that North Korea was responsible for the deadly sinking of the South Korean patrol ship Cheonan. North Korea has denied involvement and vowed "all-out war" in case of any moves to retaliate over the sinking.

An international team of civilian and military investigators declared Thursday that a North Korean submarine fired a homing torpedo on March 26, ripping the 1,200-ton ship in two. Fifty-eight sailors were rescued, but 46 died—South Korea's worst military disaster since the Korean War.

"We were caught in a perfect military ambush by North Korea while our people were resting in the late hours," Lee said at the start of the meeting, according to a statement by his office.

Prospect of Thai elections uncertain

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand will not hold elections as demanded by anti-government protesters until passions from more than two-months of political violence are calmed, a key minister said Friday.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva earlier promised polling on Nov. 14 as part of a reconciliation plan to end often-violent protests that had crippled the capital's central business district for weeks.

But when the proposal was rejected by the so-called Red Shirts, Abhisit said the deal was off and followed that with a military operation this week that



Yoon Duk-yong, right, co-head of the team investigating the sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan, talks next to torpedo parts salvaged from the Yellow Sea during a press conference at the Defense Ministry in Seoul Thursday, May 20, 2010.

Lee called the sinking a "military provocation" and said it violated the U.N. Charter as well as the truce that ended the fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War.

"Because this is a serious and important issue, I believe there must not be a single mistake in all of our responsive measures, and that we must be highly prudent," he said.

Discussion at the meeting focused on international cooperation, military readiness, inter-Korean relations and preparedness against unconventional threats from North Ko-

rea, including cyberterrorism, spokeswoman Kim Eun-hye said in the statement.

Lee had vowed Thursday to take "resolute countermeasures" against the North over the sinking. He was expected to give an address to the nation on Monday or Tuesday.

Military retaliation, however, is seen as too dangerous and not a serious option given the vulnerability of South Korea's capital, Seoul, and its 10 million some residents to North Korean artillery located just across the border.

could continue for years.

Scattered arson and looting was reported by local media late Thursday and early Friday as rioters set fire to a bank and broke into a convenience store to steal food and cash.

Korn said that in principle the government could agree to early elections as long as there was confidence that they would be free and fair and some measure of calm had been restored.

"And if we can do that in November, we will do it in November. If it takes a little bit longer than that, we'll give it the necessary time that is required," he said.

While the protest has largely ebbed in Bangkok, fears persist that the quiet restored to Thailand's capital after the bloody crackdown may just be a respite from violence and political polarization that

evacuated more than 50,000 people from low-lying villages as the region braced for its worst storm in 14 years. The cyclone, packing strong winds of 60 miles (100 kilometers) per hour and heavy rain, hit the coastal town of Bapatla, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of Hyderabad, the state capital. Waves as high as 9 feet (3 meters) lashed the coast.

Death toll from Sri Lanka's flooding hits 20

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Sri Lankan government says 20 people have died in floods and mudslides after a week of powerful storms brought heavy rain across the country. The Disaster Management Center said on its website Friday that most of the deaths occurred in western Gampaha district. The government says many homes have been inundated and roads washed out. The navy has stepped up operations to rescue those stranded and to distribute relief.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb blast in southern Afghan city kills civilian

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A roadside bomb exploded in Afghanistan's main southern city Friday, killing one civilian and wounding three children, an official said. The early morning blast appeared to target an Afghan intelligence service vehicle that drove down a main road in Kandahar city, said Abdul Ali, an intelligence official who was at the scene. Instead, an elderly man took the brunt of the blast—his body could be seen lying in the street. Three children were injured in the attack and taken to hospitals, he said.

Cyclone Laila hits SE India, 15 die

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—A powerful cyclone slammed into southeastern India on Thursday, toppling power lines and plunging a large swath of coastal Andhra Pradesh state into darkness after heavy rains and earlier strong winds claimed at least 15 lives. State welfare agencies

World

Jews in Arab east Jerusalem defy Obama peace push

JERUSALEM (AP)—When Devorah Adler's children go to school, they pass underneath the gun-toting security officer who stands on their roof 24-hours a day, walk down a path dotted by surveillance cameras and get in a van manned by another armed guard.

Adler is one of 2,000 Jews who reside in predominantly Arab neighborhoods in the heart of east Jerusalem, part of a movement that aims to ensure Israel's hold on the sector, which Palestinians seek as the capital of a future state.

Revved up by the Obama administration's latest at-

tempts to limit Jewish encroachment in disputed areas of the holy city, they are working furiously to cement and expand their presence.

Adler believes her neighbor-

hood, which Palestinians call Silwan and Jews call the City of David, was where the biblical King David once walked and is the heart of Israel's historic capital. She is willing to brave the occasional rock-throwing and rioting that erupt in the sector—sometimes sparked by Jewish expansion moves—to remain in the place she believes is so tied to Jewish history.

Nearly 200,000 Jews have moved to east Jerusalem since Israel captured the city in 1967, the vast majority living in Jewish neighborhoods built since that time. Those areas are widely expected to remain part of Israel in any future peace deal, but that does not apply to the Arab neighborhoods where Adler and other Jews have moved in, which Israel would have to cede to the Palestinians for peace.

Italy bishop testifies in priest sex abuse case

ROME (AP)—An Italian bishop testified Thursday in the trial of a priest accused of molesting boys that he heard rumors of abuse two years before the priest was arrested but didn't find them credible enough to warrant removing him or informing the Vatican.

Monsignor Gino Reali's testimony marked the first time an Italian bishop has been

called to take the stand in a trial of an Italian priest accused of abusing youngsters, said attorney Nino Marazzita, who is representing two of the seven alleged victims in the civil portion of the case.

The trial of the Rev. Ruggero Conti, taking place in the shadow of the Vatican,

comes as the clerical abuse scandal swirls around the

Holy See and exposes the depth of the abuse problem in Italy, which has long treated the subject as so taboo it was rarely even discussed.

Recently, the head of the Italian bishops' conference issued a *mea culpa* on the part of the Italian church to all victims and their families for the failure of "those who should have intervened in a timely manner."

US agrees to announce missile launches

VIENNA (AP)—The United States has agreed to notify other nations before it launches most ballistic missile tests or satellites, in a measure that builds on a landmark arms agreement with Russia and is meant to encourage Moscow to reciprocate.

The American decision was contained in a confidential note made available Thursday to The Associated Press and confirmed by three diplomats

familiar with the issue.

The move is less far-reaching—or binding—than the treaty signed last month by the U.S. and Russian presidents that outlines cuts in both nations' massive nuclear arsenals. But it is significant in reflecting Washington's determination to build on the success of that agreement.

For years, Russia voluntarily provided such pre-notifications regarding the launch of

ballistic missile tests or satellites. But it stopped doing that two years ago, complaining that the U.S. and other nations were not following suit.

One senior diplomat familiar with the issue said that Moscow is now expected to resume its reporting. That would add to the confidence building that received a huge push with last month's signing of the nuclear arms agreement.

WORLD BRIEFS

Northern Mexico shootouts kill 2 police, 7 gunmen

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico (AP)—Gunbattles between security forces and armed attackers have killed nine people in two states along the U.S. border, Mexican authorities said Thursday. The Navy says four attackers died in a gunbattle between marines and members of the Zetas drug gang in the town of San Carlos, in the border state of Tamaulipas. The Navy said in a press statement that a convoy of vehicles opened fire on a marine patrol. Marines detained four suspected gunmen—three of them Guatemalan citizens—and seized 14 rifles and over 3,600 weapons after the clash. And in the state of Coahuila, two police officers and three gunmen are dead in a shootout in Torreon, prosecutors said.

Cardinal Jaime Ortega said, a day after he and another church leader, Archbishop Dionisio Garcia, held a four-hour discussion with Raul Castro at the Palace of the Revolution, the seat of Cuba's government. The church has called previously for freedom for the island's prisoners of conscience, but doing so right after such a high profile meeting was unusual.

Gay couple sentenced to maximum 14 years in Malawi

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—A judge sentenced a couple to the maximum 14 years in prison with hard labor under Malawi's anti-gay legislation, and crowds jeered the two men as they were driven from the court house to jail Thursday. The harsh sentence for unnatural acts and gross indecency had been expected after the same judge convicted Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza earlier this week under laws dating from the colonial era. The case has drawn international condemnation and sparked a debate on human rights in this conservative southern African country. Chimbalanga, a 20-year-old hotel janitor, and his unemployed partner were arrested Dec. 27, the day after they celebrated their engagement with a party at the hotel where Chimbalanga worked—an apparent first in Malawi.

Cuban cardinal wants political prisoners freed

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba's Roman Catholic cardinal called for the liberation of some of the island's 200 political prisoners on Thursday after a rare sit-down with President Raul Castro, and said he thought his encounter with the Cuban leader was a "magnificent start" to serious dialogue. "The church is interested in an alleviation of the situation (of the political prisoners) - the liberation of some of them, for example,"

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, May 22, 2010

'Dear Gloria,' you've got (hate) mail, goodbye

MANILA, Philippines (Philippine Daily Inquirer)— Look at what's churning on Facebook.

A page called "Dear Gloria (Goodbye letters to an outgoing President)" was created on May 18 on the wildly popular social networking site to serve as a virtual corkboard for letters to outgoing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Now with more than 4,000 people "liking" the page (as of 3 p.m. Thursday), it has turned into a forum of vitriolic remarks and expressions of relief that Ms Arroyo's term is ending.

And it's being updated almost every minute.

Wrote Jean Tuano: "Good riddance. We wish that you will never come back to haunt us but you have decided to be resurrected as a congresswoman. What a shame."

Arroyo, who is to step down from the presidency on June 30, has been proclaimed representative of the second district of Pampanga.

"Thank God you're now leaving (for real this time?)," Emeng Estregan wrote in Filipino. "I hope you won't spell trouble for the new regime. And just don't aspire to be Speaker of the House. That's the good thing you can give the Filipinos—the end of your regime."

Collective anger

Michael Pascua accused the voters of Pampanga's second

district of stupidity, and Ms Arroyo of vote-buying.

Cloud Castillo remembered Ms Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal: "I think she was raised well by her father, he was a good president. But why is she like this?"

Wrote Karen Santos: "Last night, I tried to make a list [of] all the things I'd sincerely miss about you and your administration. Five, 10, 15, 20, 30 minutes passed by. Nothing. Then, it hit me.

"What I'll actually miss most about you is not really you, but the collective anger you've elicited from people who have had enough of your hocus-pocus. And how this 'collective anger' turned us into politically active citizens. And how this anger enabled us to be more vigilant and critical of our government.

"That, I'm sincerely thanking you for."

Others made do with one-liners:

"All I can say is, the worst is over. Let God judge her."

"Goodbye! Don't come back!"

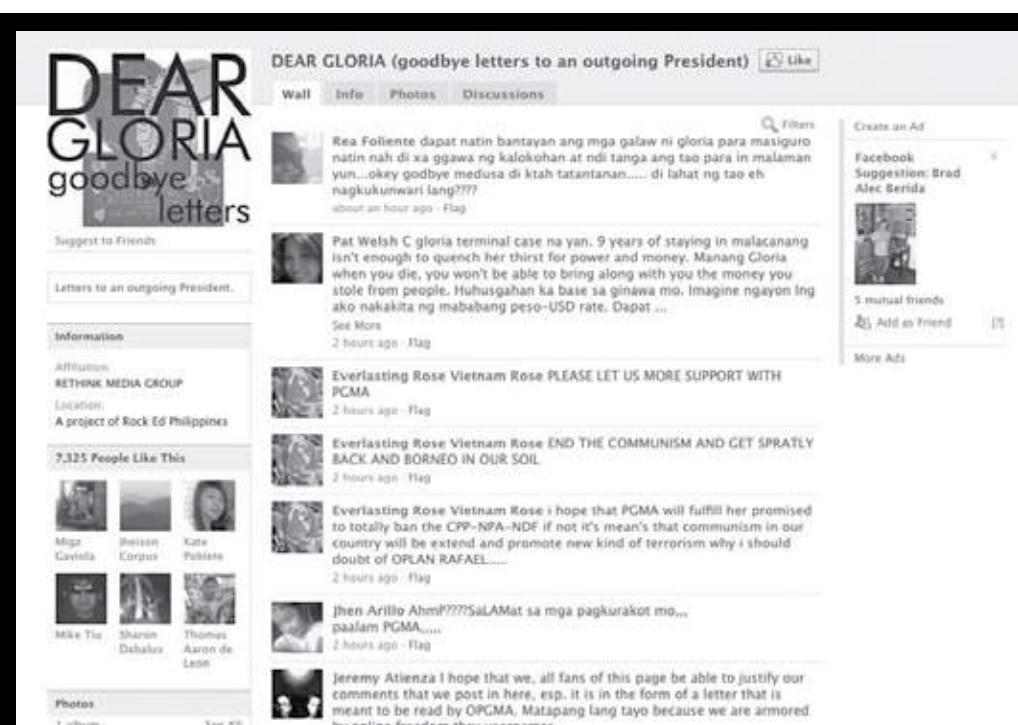
"You're bad luck!"

And those were the kinder comments.

Palace won't go to gutter

The page's nameless and faceless creator (or creators) described "Dear Gloria" as a "despedida gift" and "history written by many."

It does not have a moderator, which is why even the nastiest comments are posted, including wickedly phrased wishes



This Facebook page called "Dear Gloria (Goodbye letters to an outgoing President)" was created on May 18 to serve as a virtual corkboard for letters to outgoing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

for her demise.

Megs Sugui said she found the page after hearing the reaction of Arroyo's deputy spokesperson Gary Olivar to the letters.

"It's their right and their freedom to be as foul and as stupid as they want. The Palace will not join them in the gutter," Sugui quoted Olivar as saying.

This was her reaction to Olivar's reaction: "[Are these] the words of an educated person working in our government, looking down on the opinions and voice of the Pinoys. With this kind of statement, look who is stupid. Filipinos are not stu-

pid, opinionated lang (only)!"

'God forgive them'

But there are also some positive comments, although they are in the minority.

Wrote Nelia Villafranca: "You are being stoned by a lot of people who think they are clean and can do better. God forgive them. Can anyone name a person in government who is pure and clean? Madam Gloria, thank you for your very able leadership..."

Jose Paolo de la Cruz thanked Ms Arroyo "for the bridges, the call centers and the stable peso."

He added: "More than all

these, thank you for doing what you think is right, despite being a constant target for criticism and mudslinging. I believe that justice will be served where it is due.

"Like Erap (ousted President Joseph Estrada), who was actually far more popular, you too will be convicted if you are indeed guilty of such allegations. But if you are not, then you will have the rest of your life ahead of you, to clean your tarnished reputation.

"I believe you will do the latter, and reclaim the glory that your name once held at the beginning of your political career. Thank you Madam President, the brav-

All 19 DFA regional offices now issue ePassports

MANILA, Philippines—All 19 regional consular offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs have been issuing electronic passports (ePassports) since April 28, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

"This way, our kababayans (countrymen) living in the provinces and overseas need not come to Manila to get a passport. They just have to go to an RCO nearest them and avail of the same fast and efficient services," he added.

The same day that the RCOs shifted from the machine-readable passport (MRP) to the ePassport, the Philippine consulate general in Hong Kong also rolled out the

ePassports, the DFA-Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) said.

Other embassies and consulates general will soon follow suit, it said.

In the coming months, the DFA-OCA plans to accommodate more people as it will ramp up the system to accept more appointments—from 2,800 a day to around 3,300 a day, and even more in the near future. It is also aiming for a shorter queuing and turnaround time from receipt of application to the issuance of the passports. Earlier, Romulo said ePassport applications could last no more than 30 minutes from start to end.

(*INQUIRER.net*)

OFW remittances rose to \$1.6B in March

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Remittances from Filipinos overseas continued to expand in March as the gradual recovery of the global economy fueled an increase in the demand for labor, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported Monday.

The BSP said money remitted by migrant Filipinos reached \$1.6 billion in March, up 5.6 percent from \$1.47 billion in the same month last year.

This brought total remittances in the first quarter to \$4.34 billion, up 7 percent from \$4.06 billion in the same period last year.

"The 7-percent year-on-year growth registered during the three-month period was supported by higher remittances from both sea-based and land-based workers," BSP Governor

Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He added that the increase in remittances was expected to be sustained due to the consensus that the worst of the global crisis was over and that the world economy would grow this year after last year's recession.

"The steady remittance flows continued to be propelled mainly by sustained strong demand for Filipino skills and expertise as well as the expanded access to enhanced banking services by overseas Filipinos and their beneficiaries," Tetangco said.

Since banks and remittance companies have branched out to more countries with many migrant Filipinos, Tetangco said the latter were encouraged to send money to their families more frequently.

He added that the rise in the

number of remittance centers abroad discouraged migrant Filipinos from sending money through informal channels like illegal money transfer agents and co-workers about to return to the Philippines.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P46.4

The central bank earlier set its remittance growth forecast for the full year at 6 percent from last year's \$17.3 billion. However, Tetangco said the monetary agency raised its forecast to 8 percent given expectations of a further increase in the demand for Filipino labor as the recovery of the global economy became firmer.

Remittances last year were up 5.6 percent from \$16.4 billion

est and most diligent one of all. *Mabuhay po kayo (Long live.)*"

Erickson Zapata and Roden Enriquez also lauded "Madam President" for a "job well done" and a "great job," respectively.

"I hope you don't give up the fight despite the fact that many of our countrymen don't like you," said Zapata.

Judgment of history'

Asked Thursday to comment, Olivar expressed sadness that a big number of people had been swayed by a purported long-running campaign against his boss.

"It is sad to see how so many people were influenced by the calumnious campaign waged against the President over so many years by parties including highly influential media organizations that were further magnified by digital networks," Olivar said in a text message.

He said there remained "a vast disjunct between the one-dimensional caricature of the President that is so unpopular, on one hand, and the well-documented facts of her substantial achievements, on the other."

"We are confident that the President will be better served by the impartial judgment of history. If the incoming administration chooses to investigate her alleged offenses, and for so long as that inquiry is really motivated by a search for truth and conducted according to the rules, this may give her an even earlier opportunity to finally set the record straight," Olivar said.

in 2008. The growth in 2009 defied projections that money sent by Filipinos overseas would shrink substantially due to the global crisis, which dragged the economies of rich countries into a recession.

While remittances to other developing countries indeed contracted, those sent to the Philippines continued to grow.

An explanation given by economists was that many overseas Filipino workers were in industries hardly affected by the global crisis such as education and healthcare.

Government officials also credited the move of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to forge employment agreements with its counterparts in countries less affected by the crisis.

Pacquiao returns to school for crash course on governance

MANILA, Philippines—World boxing champion Manny Pacquiao is returning to school for a crash course to prepare for his new job as a member of the Philippines' parliament.

The 31-year-old fighter, who

was elected last week to represent the impoverished southern province of Sarangani, said he would soon take a weeklong course at the University of the Philippines.

"I will study for one week so

I will understand the protocol in Congress," he said in an interview with ABS-CBN television aired on Thursday.

"I will enter the College of Public Administration and Governance so I can understand how

Congress works."

He said he intended to take the course before he assumed his role of congressman on June 30.

Pacquiao dropped out of high school as a teenager due to pov-

erty before boxing brought him a fortune and global fame.

He passed the government's high school equivalency exams in 2007, and since then expressed hopes of studying business management and law.

His boxing victories as well as his commercial endorsements made him the world's sixth highest paid athlete last year, with earnings of \$40 million, according to Forbes magazine.

House panel formed to canvass votes for president, VP

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The House of Representatives completed the members of its panel that would work with the Senate in canvassing the votes for president and vice president starting next week, Speaker Prospero Nogales announced Friday.

The nine-member group will be composed of Nogales as chairman, majority leader Arthur Defensor, minority leader Ronaldo Zamora, senior deputy majority leader Neptali Gonzales II, senior deputy minority leader Roilo Golez, Representatives Crispin Remulla (Cavite), Didagen Dilanganen (Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City), and Matias



In this photo released by the Liberal Party of the Philippines, Sen. Benigno Aquino III, right, the apparent winner in the May 10 presidential elections, talks to his running mate Mar Roxas as they visit the wake of Gov. Rafael Nantes of Quezon province before dawn Tuesday, May 18, 2010, in Lucena city, Quezon province, south of Manila, Philippines.

Keep savings, investments at home, VP urges OFWs

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—In a message streamed via the Internet using Skype and Yahoo Messenger computer programs, Vice President Noli De Castro on Tuesday urged Filipinos abroad to put their savings and investment instruments at home.

Speaking before a gathering of Filipino workers at the

Philippine consulate general in Shanghai, De Castro stressed the importance of "saving for the rainy days" and investing in the government-guaranteed programs, including the Pag-IBIG savings program.

The event, called the Financial Literacy Briefing and Orientation on the Pag-IBIG Fund Programs, followed De Castro's speech in the Information and Communications

Technology (ICT) and Urban Development Forum in Ningbo, China, where he cited the recent automated elections as an example of how technology contributed to strengthen democratic institutions.

The vice president said in choosing where to place their money, OFWs should consider not just earnings, but also how safe the investment is, and where the money is being used.

He said the Pag-IBIG Fund's savings scheme, which is now mandatory for OFWs, is a form of high-yield, low-risk investment that benefits its members through multi-purpose and housing loans.

He also said the fund declared a dividend rate of 5 percent for 2009, "the highest dividend rate given by Pag-IBIG and better than what you can get from other deposit instruments."

an application later, and saved data may be reused for future applications. The form reduces use of paper, making it a greener method to apply for a US visa.

The rest of the application process remains the same. After completing the online application, visa applicants must schedule an interview appointment, either online at US visa services, or by calling 1-909-101-7878. Applicants must then pay the visa fee at the embassy.

If using the form for the first time, applicants should read a step-by-step instructional guide, which may be found at US embassy website for non-immigrant visas.

For more information, visit US

embassy Web site at <http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwh3024.html>. (INQUIRER.net)

Cotabato, was stabbed dead in her home Thursday morning, police said Friday. Supt. Renante Gabico, Midsayap police chief, identified the victim as Emma Galvez, principal of Flauta Elementary School in Barangay (village) Lower Glad. Gabico said Flauta was attacked by still unidentified men in her home at about 7 a.m. She was stabbed seven times by the attackers who wore masks, he added. Police investigators said the assailants, perhaps to muddle the case, doused the victim with the pesticide Thiodan, before fleeing. Gabico said the victim served as overall-in-charge of board of election inspectors during the elections. The police official could not say whether the murder of the school principal was related to the automated elections. (Inquirer.net)

Fire hits Mandaluyong residential area

MANILA, Philippines—Fire hit a residential area in Mandaluyong City Friday morning, a fire official said. The blaze started at 10:12 a.m. on Thursday Street, Barangay (village) Poblacion, according to Fire Officer 3 Federico Macandog of the Mandaluyong Fire Department. It has reached the fourth alarm. Macandog said, adding that it was not yet clear how many houses were involved. (Inquirer.net)

► PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Village exec, partner girlfriend shot dead in Davao Norte

TAGUM CITY, Philippines—A village chairman of Carmen, Davao del Norte and his live-in partner were shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Thursday, police said Friday. Senior Supt. Jose Pante, Davao del Norte police chief, identified the victims as Jacinto Sale, 41, and his partner, Judith Amad, 30. Pante said the incident happened at 2:40 p.m. in Purok Fatima, in Barangay La Paz while Sali, the incumbent village chief of La Paz, and Amad were on their way home onboard a motorcycle after withdrawing cash at the Landbank branch in nearby Panabo City. "The assailants might have tailed the victims from the bank and upon reaching the [La Paz] barangay road attacked the couple," Pante told the Philippine Daily Inquirer by phone. A report from the Carmen police said the assailants had waited for the victims. The victims were rushed to Davao Regional Hospital here but died before receiving treatment. (Inquirer.net)

Schoolmaster stabbed dead in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY, Philippines—A school principal who oversaw the automated elections in a remote village in Midsayap, North

Defensor (Quezon City), and Michael John Duavit (Rizal).

Alternate members include Representatives Teodoro Locsin Jr. (Makati), Rufus Rodriguez (Cagayan de Oro), Lorenzo Tanada III (Quezon), Liwayway Vinzons-Chato (Camarines Norte), Simeon Datumanong (Maguindanao), Giorgidi Agabao (Isabela), Pedro Romualdo (Camiguin), Joseph Emilio Abaya (Cavite), and Eduardo Zialcita (Paranaque).

On May 24, both the House and

the Senate will convene in their respective chambers to approve the draft rules of canvassing. After a common set of rules is approved, they will convene jointly at the building of the House in Batasan complex in Quezon City to start canvassing.

Nogales said he and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile would serve as co-chairman of the special canvassing committee. In the past, the majority leaders of both chambers played this role.

More OFWs flee to Jeddah flyover

By JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A group of desperate stranded overseas Filipino workers, some with children in tow, have again sought shelter beneath a flyover in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in order to get the attention of Philippine diplomatic and labor officials.

Migrante-Mideast, an OFW alliance in the Middle East, said its chapter in Jeddah had received requests for assistance from the 22 OFWs, mostly women, who have taken shelter under the Khandara Bridge in Jeddah.

The Khandara Bridge has become a makeshift "refugee camp" for stranded migrant workers of various nationalities who hope that the local

immigration police, the Jawsat, would apprehend them and eventually deport them to their own countries.

The Riyadh-based Migrante-Mideast regional coordinator John Leonard Monterona called on the Philippine consulate in Jeddah to take charge of the OFWs, saying that living under the flyover was not safe, particularly for the children.

He said that in the fourth quarter of 2009, the number of stranded OFWs living under the bridge had surged to 300. This prompted the Philippine Overseas Labor Office-Jeddah and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to rent a villa near the city's Al-Hajj terminal to temporarily accommodate them while the agencies were arranging for their repatriation.

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Filipina writes up a storm

A woman who started a blog after a deadly typhoon is an unlikely voice of the people

By JOHN M. GLIONNA

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SEOUL, South Korea—Call her the accidental blogger, because Lila Shahani certainly never planned on becoming one of the Philippines' most controversial Internet voices.

All she did was write a letter to her uncle last fall expressing disappointment over the government's response to the deadly Typhoon Ondoy.

Granted, her uncle is former President Fidel V. Ramos. But supporters say the letter contained such elegant, well-reasoned arguments about what was wrong with her country that when the 42-year-old academic posted it online, people took notice.

Shahani has left her Manhattan home for her political and ethnic roots. She's back in Manila, writing *Notes From an Insomniac*. In the post-midnight hours, she composes her thoughts about the intrigues of a nation where many live on less than a dollar a day.

She doesn't just riff off the news, but hits the streets to do her own reporting on topics often ignored by the mainstream news media. She's taken on clan warlords in the restive south, and questioned the culture of impunity for the nation's elite.

"My subject of interest is the disempowered," Shahani said. "I write what's in my head and I don't pander to the market, because I want to remain a social critic, nothing more."

Shahani was born into political aristocracy. Her mother, a distant relative of the late Ferdinand Marcos, is a former senator and diplomat who helped

oust the dictator. But Shahani's illustrious lineage doesn't stop her from offering scathing insights to the sometimes unsavory world of Philippine politics, getting attention for her investigation into allegations of perjury by recently defeated presidential hopeful Sen. Manny Villar, a self-made property developer millionaire.

A vocal critic of outgoing President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Shahani despises what she calls the "power brokers full of hubris and a sense of entitlement, sycophants currying favor with all sides, self-righteous and embittered pseudo-leftists, political candidates peddling truth and enlightenment even as they sold off the country to the highest bidder, misogynists of every cast and temper, and vicious gossip as the one unifying thread throughout."

Shahani supports Benigno Aquino III, the winner of the recent presidential election and son of the late democracy icon Corazon Aquino. She thinks he can repair the nation after Arroyo's tenure, which has been marred by allegations of graft and election fraud.

She praises Aquino for speaking his mind "even at the risk of displeasing monolithic interests, whether they happen to be the administration, the Catholic Church, legal circles or public opinion itself."

Her postings have won the support of human rights activists and even brought marriage proposals. They've also brought a backlash.

She's been hounded by blog squads backed by various political candidates. One blogger dismissed Shahani as ignorant and "brazenly disingenuous."



Lila Shahani's blog, *Notes From an Insomniac*.

Calling her "a disgrace to the Ramos clan," another said she "makes a big fuss about shoving her credentials in front of everyone simply because she knows she can't prove her points rationally."

Shahani doesn't flinch. "It's the nature of public discourse in Philippines: nonintellectuals incapable of engaging with you on the merit of your points," she said. "I'd welcome a spirited debate. Instead they just call you names."

Supporters say Filipinos need people like Shahani.

"The way she dived into the blogosphere, into the rough and tumble of Philippine politics, and her willingness to work with people on every social and economic level are just what it's going to take to change this country,"

said Mac McCarty, a Manila writer.

Shahani, born in Newark, N.J., has lived all over the world. She returned to the Philippines to work as deputy director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and teach at her country's national university. She left in 1993, when her uncle was president, to visit India, her father's homeland.

For years, she shunned political life. Then last fall, while in Manhattan working on her doctoral thesis for Oxford University, she saw the images of the typhoon ravaging the Philippines. Ondoy, known outside the Philippines as Tropical Storm Ketsana, left about 300 people dead.

She felt compelled to write what she calls the "love letter to the Filipino people," and sent it to her uncle. Although

she praised his accomplishments, she also questioned his support of the political status quo.

"Our government was as much to blame for the colossal loss of life and habitation in the country as was climate change," she wrote of the typhoon response, signing the letter, "Love always, Lil."

Shahani posted the letter on Facebook, where the response prompted her to start the blog, which has received thousands of hits.

She continues to expose those aspects of Philippine society that break her heart, including the rigid class system and "astonishing arrogance of the landed elite," she said in an interview.

Calling her countrymen "forgiving to the point where we don't have any historical memory," she rues those who would vote for Imelda Marcos, who won a seat in the country's lower house.

"It's a frightening spectacle to see people here genuflect to prestige and power," she said. "The Imelda allure is the glamorous clothes, Ferragamo shoes, lofty wave of the hand. Even the upper classes think it's prestigious to be around her."

Although her blog signals hope for the Philippines, Shahani cannot shy away from the reality.

"All the hopes and dreams we had after getting rid of Marcos—it makes my heart heavy every time I come back to the Philippines," she said.

"I open the car window no matter how smoggy and look out and examine the road from the airport to our house, to see if there are more lights, more improvements. And it just gets worse."

ASK DR. NOET

Principles the crisis hasn't changed

By DR. JOHNNY NOET RAVALO

INQUIRER.NET

The headlines are blaring, sound clips are plenty and online coverage seems never ending. Amidst all the financial difficulties, someone asked me what new lessons should be learned. I did not have to pause very long. I still think that the main lessons are no different from those that we have tried to share in this column on various occasions even though this crisis is unprecedented in many respects. For me, six lessons particularly stand out.

1 We simply do not have the ability to perfectly foresee the future.

Lehman was after all an AA-rated credit so who would have imagined what would become of such a venerable Wall Street name. This human limitation is the best reason why we should be saving. We should save because it is the only way we can transfer purchasing power from when we have a surplus to when we may suddenly need more of it. In other words, saving during normal times helps us manage the difficult times. When difficult times kick in, our financial plans often shift to prioritizing liquidity over profitability. Unless we have a fool-proof

way of either marrying into or inheriting liquidity just at the right time, we simply cannot maximize liquidity when we have no saving to speak of in the first place.

2 Change is the one constant in financial markets.

With change, perceptions and fortunes can very well change as well. What may be heralded today may suddenly be frowned upon when market conditions change. Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) and Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDO) were positioned as financial engineering responses to the needs in the housing market. They provided the means for more individuals to obtain their own home via mortgage while allowing financial institutions to re-package the exposures. Yet as market rates reversed, what were once labelled as "innovations" had evolved into the "sub-prime" saga.

3 Financial value is a relative concept.

A trader, for example, would have a different mindset from an investor. This matters because ultimately the portfolio of a trader should be different from the portfolio of an investor. There is always that natural urge for any investor to get a bit more but with-

out realizing it, some of us cross over and mimic a trading position and get consumed in the day-to-day changes in market values. This will be a problem because traders build their portfolios based on different investment objectives and look forward to "rebalancing" the portfolio to generate returns.

Most retail investors would not have the "information infrastructure" to monitor the markets ticker-by-ticker and adjust their portfolios accordingly. Instead, it may be more prudent to give up on higher risk instruments for those that can provide a reasonable gain over longer periods, with due consideration to our shifting liquidity needs and the changing fortunes of the credit quality of the instrument issuer.

4 Financial markets provide a value-added service but they do not have to be "equal" to all to get this job done.

This is perhaps the hardest lesson of all and it does not mean that financial markets are inherently unfair. What it simply says is that the financial market cannot accommodate everything that each of us want because trade-offs are necessary. For example, we cannot generate the highest return without taking more systemic risks.

And no matter how we work on it, a pool worth P5,000 is much less flexible than a pool worth P500,000. This is not being unfair. Rather, it is a testament to our differences; differences that make markets work so that differentiated products are offered for different needs.

5 Market dynamics have a way of containing excesses.

Unfortunately, the realignment is never painless because it may mean getting a bump, a bruise or a bleeding cut every now and then. This is not a critique of the financial market but more of a blunt reminder that there needs to be a certain amount of balance in what we do in these markets, both for our individual portfolios and our collective behaviour as stakeholders. It is important that we identify what we want out of our investments, make sure that our investment objectives are consistent with our own capacities and have the discipline to stay within our means. This is often not easy and this is where we really need the objective eye of financial advisers and brokers.

6 Finally, information is supreme in financial markets.

It is important that we know what's going on in the market because it is our saving that is at stake. The difference

between an informed investor and a panicky investor is often the absence of quality information. Deal with financial institutions that make a clear effort to communicate with you and take the time to keep the lines open. This is not an excuse to abdicate on making financial decisions. That part still rests with us because it is the action item that comes from gathering the relevant information.

These are the lessons that I always keep in mind. I don't mean to suggest that it is an exhaustive list and I do not also represent them to be a recipe for financial success. For me at least, it helps in maintaining a perspective and all day-to-day financial choices are anchored on that broad view.

Have a question for Dr. Noet? Email personal_finance@inquirer.net. Dr. Noet Raval is a macro-financial economist by practice and profession. He is currently Managing Director at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippine central bank. Previous to this, he was chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines until 2002, after which he did consulting work. Readers are solely responsible for their investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

‘Emir’ seeks to revive glory of Filipino movie musicals

By JOSIE P. TABANERA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—“Why not a musical?” asks Chito Roño. The filmmaker better known for hit horror flicks “Sukob” and “Feng Shui,” acclaimed dramas “Nasaan ang Puso” and “Itanong Mo sa Buwan,” and socially relevant films “Bata-Bata Paano Ka Ginawa” and “Olongapo: The Great American Dream,” now tries his hand at a big project that combines acting with singing and dancing.

He is confident: “Everybody loves a musical and Filipinos love to sing!”

At last, the ideal project—“Emir,” a movie about overseas Filipino workers, co-produced by the Film Development Council of the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines and the President’s Social Fund.

“Emir” tells the story of Amelia, a young provinciana from Ilocos Norte who goes to the Middle East to work as a nanny in the royal household. Roño earlier directed the OFW movie “Caregiver,” starring Sharon Cuneta, but feels “Emir” is a first, nonetheless,

being an all-original full-length movie musical.

“It’s about time!” the award-winning director exclaims. “Emir” features 22 songs composed by Gary Granada, Vin and Ebe Dancel, and Diwa de Leon, with additional lyrics by Rody Vera, and Palanca winner Jerry Gracio, who is also the screenwriter.

Pre-war hits

The Filipino movie musical found its place in the hearts of cinema-goers via the pre-war films “Dalagang Bukid” and “Bituing Marikit.” The first golden age of Philippine cinema in the 1940s-1950s, saw a fierce competition of musicals from the “Big Four” studios—LVN Pictures, Sampaguita Pictures, Premiere Productions and Lebran International. These studios produced the most beloved rural comedies and musicals.

The Carmen Rosales-Rogelio de la Rosa tandem remains one of the most successful of all time in local cinema, with their hit films “Señorita” and “Lambingan” (1940), “Tampuhan” (1941) and the most memorable, “Maalaala Mo Kaya?” (1954). Later followed the Gloria Romero-Luis Gonzales love



A scene from the first full-length, all-original movie musical “Emir,” all about OFWs.

team, starring in “Despatsadora” (1955), “Pagdating ng Takip-silim” (1956) and “Colegiala” (1957). And who could forget F.H. Constantino’s “Waray-Waray” (1954) with LVN’s Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa?

In those days, a typical scene would be a barrio lass, dressed in baro’t saya, singing a Tagalog

love ditty under a huge mango tree. Next to her would be a tall and dashing mestizo, who was likely to sing as well.

True events

“Emir” is inspired by true events, most notably the Gulf War, and true characters, like a crown prince who speaks fluent Tagalog and Ilocano.

Better still, the movie illustrates the resilient side of OFWs. “Emir” casts these “new heroes” in a new light, underlining the musicality that has transformed global perception of OFWs. Moreover, the film pays tribute to Filipino care-

givers worldwide, about whom it might be said, “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.”

Emir’s theme song, “Bakit Ako Naririto” is sung by Frencheska Farr, winner of GMA 7’s talent search, “Are You the Next Big Star?” Farr, who plays Amelia, spent three weeks in Morocco, where most of the movie was filmed. The singer-actress was apparently smitten by Morocco—the same location for such movies as “Gladiator,” “Lawrence of Arabia” and, more recently, “Sex and the City” and “The Prince of Persia.”

Aga, Janice proud grandparents of baby boy

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Aga Muhlach And Janice de Belen are now proud grandparents to Alejandro Miguel, the firstborn of their love child Igi Boy and his wife Patricia.

The little one was born May 16 at 10:11 a.m. Igi’s Facebook status reads: “They say that every time somebody dies, a child is born. So I thank the [one] who gave his life for the birth of my son.”

Since Sam Pinto and Jake Cuenca are doing a TV show together, is it possible that their thwarted romance when they were still models be rekindled?

“Jake and I have put our past in the back seat and just moving forward as friends,” Sam clarifies. “We are both concentrating on our careers, that’s why love life is a no-no for now. We both know that love will come at the right time. And now is not the right time at all.”

She added: “We are both young and we want to spread our wings first, explore opportunities and see what the world

has to offer for us. Not everyone gets this once-in-a-lifetime chance to make it in show biz so I’m grabbing it.”

DJ Mo is a welcome addition to “Paparazzi.” Ruffa G., Tita Cristy and I welcomed him to the show last Sunday on TV5 with open arms.

I’ve always liked Mo’s style. He tells it like it is. We share the same dressing room and we enjoy swapping Paris stories since we both love the City of Light.

He’s not too happy about how he left GMA 7. “I wrote Ms Wilma Galvante a letter which I did from my heart,” he says. “It’s just too bad that the reply I received was not as warm as a Kapuso should be.”

Ruffa Gutierrez welcomes constructive criticism about her TV5 special where she portrays different kinds of roles that enable her to showcase the whole gamut of emotions from A-Z.

“Whatever comments I read about my performance serve as a challenge for me to keep improving my craft,” she says. “I

Big cast

Also cast in “Emir” are Sid Lucero, Julia Clarete, Jhong Hilario, Dulce, Bayang Barrios, Bodjie Pascua, Gigi Escalante, Beverly Salviejo, Liesl Batucan, Melanie Dujunco, and Kalila Aguilos.

Lorna Sanchez and Chris Millado are assistant directors; Neil Daza, director of photography; Chino Toledo, musical director (with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra); Douglas Nierras, choreographer; Digo Rocio, production designer; Jerold Tarog, editor.

Sentiments

In one of Amelia’s songs, she says, “Alang-alang sa mga mahal sa buhay, Magtitis na lumayo’t maliwalay, nang makaranas ng kahit konting gin-hawa, Kahit ang kapalit nito’y pagdurusa.”

“For my loved ones, I will endure distance and separation, to taste a little comfort, though this requires suffering.”

Thus “Emir” reflects the exact sentiments of OFWs and their families.

Landmark

“It is bound to be a landmark movie,” says Rolando Atienza, executive producer and FDCP chair.

“Emir” is also presented in collaboration with Viva Films, Manila Broadcasting Company and SM Cinemas.

It opens in theaters nationwide on June 9.

Kris bows out in June from ‘Buzz,’ ‘SNN’

MANILA, Philippines—Kris Aquino will stop hosting the show-biz programs “The Buzz” and “SNN” in late June, but will stay in the cast of an ABS-CBN drama series until August.

The controversial TV host announced this on her Twitter account, @itsmekrisaquino, Tuesday night: “I will leave

‘SNN’ on June 25 and ‘The Buzz’ on June 27. I will be on ‘Kung Tayo’y Magkakalayo’ until mid-August.” Kris said she will go on a three-week vacation in August with her children Joshua and James Jr. “When I come back, I’ll have new shows for ABS CBN,” she said. “I can still act, host a game show, or judge a

talent show.” She hinted at the possibility of hosting a lifestyle/travel program “with a community sharing component.”

These were the result of a

meeting on May 18 between Kris, her sisters Ballsy, Pinky and Viel, and ABS-CBN bosses Gabby Lopez, Charo Santos-Concio and Cory Vidanes.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

directed by Adolfo Alix Jr.

Cogie previously worked with Alix who was a writer on his GMA 7 soap “Kung Mawawala Ka.” In “Muli,” Cogie will have intimate scenes with award-winning young actor Sid Lucero.

The two will play secret lovers who remain committed to each other through the turbulent decades of Philippine history: From the presidency of Diosdado Macapagal to that of his daughter, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

“My first question to Direk Adolf was about the love scenes,” says Cogie. “I have no idea ...” Adolf gave him the Oscar-winning films “Brokeback Mountain” and “Milk” as guide.

Noel Ferrer, Domingo’s manager, said that he was inspired by the 1978 film “Same Time, Next Year” in conceptualizing “Muli” with Jerry Gracio, who penned the script which won second place in last year’s Palanca Awards.

matters with Singson first. “We’re now okay,” Cogie says. He declined to comment on Tiongson.

Cogie is set to do shows with ABS-CBN, GMA 7 and TV5. And for his first big-screen role in four years, he is chucking his matinee-idol image for the role of a closeted gay lawyer in “Muli,”

the firstborn of their love child Igi Boy and his wife Patricia. The little one was born May 16 at 10:11 a.m. Igi’s Facebook status reads: “They say that every time somebody dies, a child is born. So I thank the [one] who gave his life for the birth of my son.”

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“Whatever comments I read about my performance serve as a challenge for me to keep improving my craft,” she says. “I

just hope they get to watch all the episodes instead of just singling out my comedy role in the series, so they can have a more comprehensive view of my entire performance.”

Having worked with Ruffa for over a month now, I can truly say that there’s more to her than being drop-dead gorgeous. All my pre-conceived notions about her are now gone.

Former sexy star Katherine Luna said a mouthful in “Paparazzi” about her ex, Coco Martin, with whom she has a child.

“Kung kinakahiya mo ang anak mo ngayon, balang araw baka ikaw naman ang ikahiya niya,” says Katherine. “Noong tayo pa, ako ang mas kilala noon. Ginamit mo lang ako. Ngayon ikaw na ang sikat. At dahlil yan di lang sa galing mong umarte kundi pati na rin sa galing mong gu-mamit ng tao, babae, lalaki o bakla man ito.”

The acclaimed star of “Babae Sa Breakwater” seemed on the

verge of a breakdown.

Maharlika – Opinyon

OFWs can lead in domestic tourism

MANILA, Philippines—Filipino overseas workers could constitute a significant part of the booming domestic tourism that has been given a big boost by improved infrastructures in the Philippine countryside.

There must be a more concerted effort to sell the Philippines as a tourism delight to our very own OFWs. This article is meant to do just that.

Square meter by square meter, there are many more attractions for foreign tourists in the Philippines than in our neighboring countries like Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam. With more than 7,100 islands, there is an almost infinite number of sites for scuba diving, surfing, beach combing, bird watching, “finding Nemo,” cliff hanging, dolphin sighting, jet skiing, etc., etc. Probably Indonesia, with 14,000 islands, is the only archipelago that can surpass the number of these tourist attractions.

Then why are we so behind countries like Thailand and Malaysia in the number of foreign tourists that we attract every year? The main explanation I can give is the very same for our high poverty rate. We have criminally neglected countryside infrastructures, especially farm to market roads. Our beautiful sites have been hidden, except to a few local tourists, from the world because they are totally inaccessible. A glaring proof of this is that even our so-called “jewel,” Boracay, is so difficult to reach.

Fortunately, in the last 10 years or so, there has been a significant improvement in infrastructures in the countryside, the most notable of which is the so-called Philippine nautical highway. There are more and more destinations that are accessible to both foreign and domestic tourists, e.g. Coron in Palawan, Panglao in Bohol, Camarines Sur, Dumaguete, Siquijor, Camiguin, etc. There was a noticeable increase in domestic tourism in crisis-ridden 2009 that compensated for the smaller number of foreign

tourists who visited the country. Domestic tourists are literally blazing the trail in discovering what I call the hidden paradises.

Well, let me tell you about one of them, the town of Bani in Western Pangasinan. I recently visited this small town of 45,000 individuals and could not believe what I saw. Name any tourist attraction found in other places of the Philippines and Bani has it: beaches with fine sand; corals (which can be seen even without goggles); scuba diving sites; dolphins; tuna; migratory and indigenous birds (Bani has been included among the major sites for bird-watching); caves; water falls; mountains for trekking and biking; abundant sea food; lush mangrove forest which is a marine protected area; and a version of Calvary Hill with 1,000-step “Via Crucis” leading to a gigantic Cross. As in all Philippine villages, Bani’s most important assets are its ever-smiling and hospitable people.

I venture to predict that this hidden paradise will not remain hidden for too long. Thanks to improved infrastructures, it is being slowly discovered by domestic tourists. In 2008, for example, some 8,000 Catholic devotees trooped to the Pilgrimage Site on Tuesday of Holy Week as an act of penance and to enjoy the serene atmosphere that is very conducive to prayer. Thanks to a very dynamic mayor, who spends all his waking hours thinking of and implementing programs to improve the welfare of his constituents, Bani is surely going to be one of the greenest municipalities in the country. It already was awarded the prestigious Galing Pook prize from the Office of the President for its trailblazing program of coastal resource management. In the next three years, this small municipality will have three sources of sustainable energy: wind power, biomass, and a small dam for irrigation and hydroelectric power.

Part of the vision of Mayor Marcelo Navarro Jr. (a former PNP Gen-

eral) is to transform Bani also into an educational center. It is the first municipality to take advantage of the University of the Philippines’ Open University system. There are plans to put up a fisheries version of the Family Farm School system in which the children of small fishermen will be trained in more productive methods of fishing. The fishermen of Bani are especially lucky because, through a housing program of the local government, they are being relocated from their present dwellings which are precariously situated along the shore, to a higher area where a hundred Gawad Kalinga-type houses designed by famous Green Architect Miguel Guerrero III will constitute an Ecology Village that can become another tourist attraction of the municipality.

I do not exaggerate when I dream with Mayor Navarro and the other local leaders that in the next ten years, Bani can be a combination of Boracay, Anilao, and Punta Fuego in the amenities that it can provide to both domestic and foreign tourists. I won’t be surprised if some selected foreigners will choose this municipality to spend their retirement years, as is already happening in places like Dumaguete and Camarines Sur. Together with my colleagues at the University of Asia and the Pacific, we will help Mayor Navarro and his community attract more attention from the foreign and domestic investment communities so that private capital can be poured into this hidden paradise. When that happens, Bani will not remain hidden for too long.

I hope that some of the OFW who read this will decide to bring their families and friends to a hidden paradise like Bani. It is a four-hour car ride from Manila going through NLEX and SCTEX, heading towards Camiling, Tarlac and Alaminos, Pangasinan where there are lodging and bed-and-breakfast facilities. Filipinos should be the first ones to benefit from the attractions of nature, culture and hospitable people of the Philippines.

For comments, my email address is bvillegas@uap.edu.ph.

EDITORIAL

Unsolicited advice

Should newspapers hand out unsolicited advice to the presumptive president-elect? A reader, lawyer Rene Gaceta, thinks unsolicited advice, especially the detailed kind, is an insult to, and an imposition on, Sen. Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III. “Shades of Cory Aquino’s early days! Remember that Cory took umbrage when everyone and his kinsmen thought they had the right to advise an apparently unprepared president.”

We thank Gaceta for his letter, but we believe he is fundamentally mistaken. He is mistaken about the true import of Corazon Aquino’s early and somewhat haughty disdain for unsolicited advice. His letter provides us an opportunity to make the most of what is now familiarly called a teaching moment. Allow us to explain, not only what we meant, but what we do.

The opposite of unsolicited advice is the solicited kind, in other words the counsel a public official seeks from those within his circles of trust, and from the professionals. It is the role of a presidential legal counsel, for instance, to provide a president with the best available legal advice (and perhaps some political considerations too). The point is, solicited advice plays a pivotal role, and may help spell the difference between competence and incompetence in governance.

But unsolicited advice also plays a key role in democratic politics; it should not be merely tolerated, but welcomed. Any public official quickly becomes the victim of his or her own cordon sanitaire; nobody, for instance, likes bad news, and a public official who has the habit of “killing the messenger” soon runs out of messengers willing to convey bad news. But unsolicited advice does not only traffic in the unpleasant; it also and often presents alternative perspectives, different approaches, perhaps even a variedly sourced sense of possibility. Above all, unsolicited advice is only the 1980s term for public opinion, forthrightly expressed. To discourage it, on the grounds that the presumptive president-elect will “resent” it the way his late mother did, or because he will “rightly feel affronted,” is to undermine the very discourse that makes concerned letter writers and letters to the editor even possible.

Precisely as a requisite of vigorous public discourse, a newspaper feels duty-bound to offer advice of all sorts. To put it bluntly: the opinion pages of a newspaper are in the unsolicited advice business. “But Noynoy should resent the Inquirer editorial not because it was unsolicited but because it was too detailed,” reader Gaceta writes. Unfortunately, he is mistaken yet again. Detail is what distinguishes a motherhood statement (“Uphold justice! Condemn injustice!”) from opinion that can lead to action.

Entitlement

We usually think of corruption as bribes and kickbacks, mainly involving people in government misusing public funds.

We’re not as aware, or vigilant, about the role played by something called entitlement in corruption, in both the public and private sectors.

To illustrate, let me give a recent example from Thailand. Wallop Bhukkanasut took a Thai Airways flight from Tokyo to Bangkok with his wife and a friend. The three of them pooled their luggage allowance when they checked in. Since Wallop and his wife were on first class, their total luggage allowance was a whooping 170 kg. But that apparently was still not enough. The three checked in 30 pieces of luggage, with a total weight of 398 kg.

Excess baggage charges would have amounted to \$5,000 but Wallop didn’t pay. He was, after all, chair of the board of Thai Airways, which is a government corporation. Apparently, after his party had checked in, someone in Thai Airways altered the luggage weight. Not only that, the luggage ended up in the airport’s lost property office, and so bypassed customs. Wallop later claimed he was carrying fruits, given to him by a friend living in Japan and intended for a Bangkok temple.

The media pounced on the event saying that Wallop had exploited his position as an executive of a government corporation. The airline eventually had to launch an investigation. Even before results of the probe could be released, Wallop resigned. The investigation eventually confirmed the anomalies, but noted that since Wallop had already resigned, it was now all academic and moot.

This incident is an example of entitlement gone awry. Entitlement started out with very positive meanings. In the United States, for example, it’s still used to refer to social security payments for unemployment, maternity, sickness. The rationale of these payments is that a person is entitled to government subsidies because they are in a disadvantageous situation.

Somehow, over the years, entitlement has taken on more negative meanings. I first heard the term from American professors, complaining about how demanding their students had become, for example, thinking they’re automatically entitled to a grade of “A” just for attending classes.

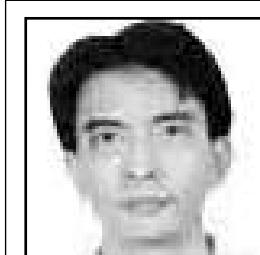
Entitlement and corruption

If we are to tackle corruption in the Philippines, we need to look at people’s sense of entitlement, from the rationalizations people use, to the way the entitlement “evolves” together with the scale of corruption. I can imagine the Thai executive entitling himself to the excess baggage with all kinds of rationalizations: his being board chair (airline officials do get extra excess baggage allowances) and maybe the fruits were going to a temple anyway. (But my Thai Buddhist friends have a counter-argument: the donations of fruits would have been more meaningful if he had paid for their transport.)



Thinking Global

By DR. BERNARDO M. VILLEGRAS
INQUIRER.NET



Pinoy Kasi

By MICHAEL TAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Petty corruption often starts out with entitlements like, “It’s only a few pesos, but it will help me feed my family.” Then it becomes “Everyone’s doing it anyway and I’d be a fool not to take my share.” Eventually, it all becomes so much part of the psyche that the corrupted will shrug it all off, “What are we in power for?” Entitlement has now spawned impunity.

Entitlement becomes even more important in the light of Noynoy Aquino’s main campaign slogan, “Kung walang corruption, walang mahirap” (If there is no corruption, there will be no poverty). Entitlement aggravates poverty because it involves people with an overblown sense of entitlement on one hand, and victims, the poor, who have a weak sense of entitlement.

Feudal entitlement

In a feudal society like our own, entitlement is constantly being mangled. When the rich help the poor, it’s often with a sense of entitlement as total control over people they’ve helped. “Sin verguenza!” (“Ingrates!”), they’ll holler at household helpers who aren’t awake at 5 a.m.

On the other hand, that same feudal system means that the poor’s sense of entitlement is tied to patrons, to the padrinos and padrinas, which means corruption will be tolerated for as long as the loot is shared out, the crumbs being distributed to the poor.

The feudal entitlements can backfire: for example people, not paying back a loan, or finding ways to cheat the rich, with the rationalization that the rich are rich anyway and therefore don’t need to be paid back. “Rich,” of course, is relative—I’ve had people not paying back money borrowed from me because they think I must be earning lots of money from the Inquirer and UP. (Smile.)

The rich complain all the time about the poor making too many demands. No doubt there are many with a distorted sense of entitlement, often corrupted by politicians’ doles. But there are many more who need to build a stronger sense of entitlement, in the positive sense.

The distorted entitlements can be messy. It leads to people being silent about corrupt politicians. There are adverse consequences as well in the private sector. Last month BusinessWorld had a report on an Asian survey showing that Filipinos are least likely to report problems they had with bad service, shoddy goods or overpriced items. See how it works? The companies believe they’re entitled to maximum profits, even if means sacrificing consumer welfare. The consumers don’t think they’re entitled to complain. (Okay, okay so maybe they do know they’re entitled, but don’t think their grievances will be addressed anyway.)

Everyone loses with these distorted entitlements, not just financially but in the quality of goods and services. No wonder we end up with a culture of mediocrity, getting by with whatever we can get away with.

Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



GOOD LUCK!

Good luck Little Falcons on today's championship game. This shoutout is from your Talaabwogh fans. AOO! Standing left to right: AJ Evangelista, Miti Camacho, Juan Quitugua, Angel Palacios, Coach Manny Evangelista, Chris Sablan, Matt Hamilton, Logan Martin, Derek Naog, Manager Joe Lifoifoi, and Coach Jess Taitano. Kneeling left to right: Travis Malwelbug, Barry Sunumai, Dylan Camacho, and Don Manalo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW GRADUATES

Congratulations to my granddaughter Werly Breakenridge and my granddaughter in-law Miles Rodriguez and their close friends. May the Lord bless you with many more successes in life and guide you through all your endeavors. I love you all so much! Congratulations again! Love grandma Winnie Borja. From top left: Rabbie Romero, Dyenina Diaz, James Quiblat, Jenny Dayrit, Miles Rodriguez, Roxanne Ferrer, Werly Breakenridge, and Stacey Demapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BARTENDERS' COMPETITION

Officer of NM Bartender Association, together with the participants for the incoming Bartenders Cocktail Competition dubbed as "Burnett's Vodka Challenge" to be held at the American Memorial Park tower field on May 22, 2010, Saturday show start 7pm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our youngest sister Jenny Fred, who is graduating today, May 22, 2010. We are very proud of you! "Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you'll make a difference."—Arie Pencovici. Love you always, Dad, Mai, Joy, Jo, and Tanaka.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Sabino and Norlyn Cabrera celebrated their seven-year wedding anniversary last Wednesday, May 19. Congratulations to seven years of married bliss!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Birthday greetings going out to Loran M. Pua who will be celebrating his birthday on May 23, 2010 on Sunday. Wishes coming from all your nieces and nephews. May you have a wonderful and enjoyable day on your birthday. God bless you, and many more to come.

Happy 1st birthday to Alton Pangelinan Sablan! May God bless you on your special day. Wishing you nothing but the best, and many more birthdays to come! We love you! Love, Jilly Jade and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 1st birthday to Jillian Jade Pangelinan Concepcion! We hope that today will be as beautiful and wonderful as you. May God bless you today and all the days of your life. We love you so much neni girl! Yours forever, Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Birthday greetings going out to Nick Agulto who will be celebrating his birthday on May 22, 2010 on Saturday. Wishes coming from all your friends (Chicko, Phillip, and Bradly) and also from all your family. God bless you, and wishing you the best on your day.



Birthday greetings going out to Miyabi Tagawa right, who will be celebrating her birthday on May 22, 2010 on Saturday. Wishes coming from your one and only boyfriend Hank, sitting next to you. May you have a wonderful and best day on your birthday.

YoungStyle

Teens learn dangers of texting while driving

By LISA RATHKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. (AP)—Kamy Mayott has been told that texting while driving is dangerous. But the 15-year-old didn't know just how dangerous until she navigated a golf cart through an obstacle course while texting and took out a whole row of orange cones.

"It definitely taught me to be careful and not to text while driving because I'm going to kill somebody," Mayott said.

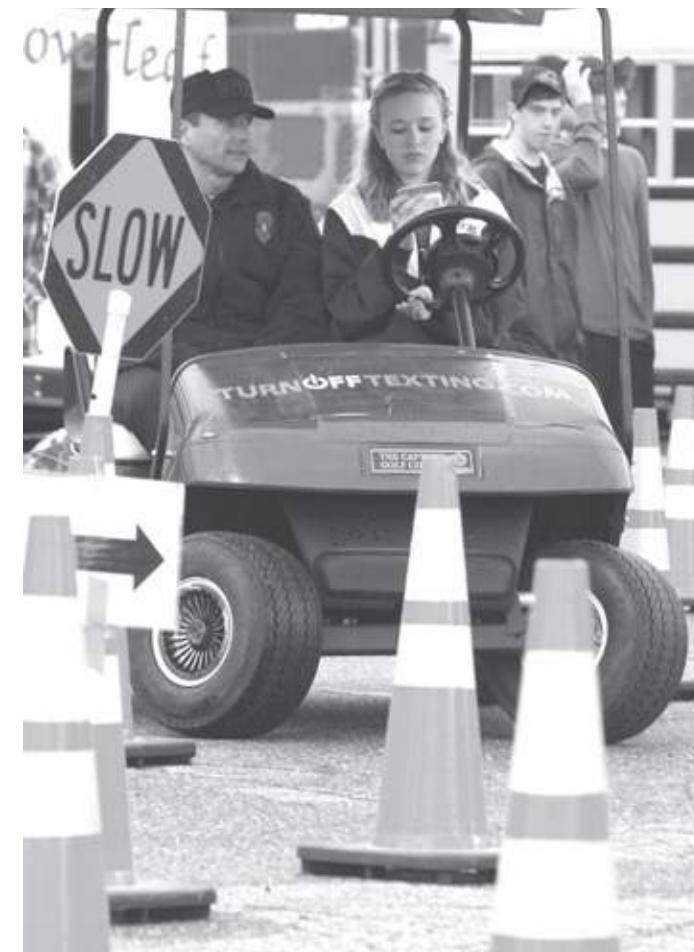
So far 25 states have banned texting while driving, but many are going a step further, sending kids through similar courses, so they can see the errors, accidents and fatalities they could cause. Officials hope the reality will alleviate the temptation to send an electronic message to a friend while behind the wheel.

"It's pretty eye opening for the kids," said David Teater, senior director of transportation initiatives for the National Safety Council in Itasca, Ill. "They're very unsuccessful at texting and navigating the cones."

The NSC estimates that 28 percent of crashes—or 1.6 million per year—are caused by cell phone use, either talking or texting.

Drivers who use cell phones are four times more likely to be in a crash, while drivers who text increase that risk to 8 to 23 times, the NRC said.

People shouldn't be messing with cell phones when they're trying to drive," said Drew Bloom, captain of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, left, rides along with 10th-grader Hannah Chambers during a texting-while-driving event in White River Junction, Vt.



In this May 6, 2010 photo, Capt. Drew Bloom of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, left, rides along with 10th-grader Hannah Chambers during a texting-while-driving event in White River Junction, Vt.

while teens are just learning the rules of the road.

"This age group from 15 to 20 represents about 15 percent of licensed drivers in Vermont yet they're involved in almost 30 percent of the crashes. So they're prone to crashing anyway. If you add texting and

The Turn Off Texting campaign brought the golf cart event to five schools in Vermont this spring, and plans to get to three more before the end of the school year.

Many teen drivers, who must be accompanied by a parent in the car until they get their licenses, already are prohibited from texting.

"It's a big no, no," said Corissa Peterson, 16, of Hartford. "I put my phone on silent and put it in my step dad's pocket."

Trevor Nadeau, 16, of Sharon, sometimes brings his cell phone with him but doesn't answer.

After running through the obstacle

course, he said he won't text.

"I did horrible. I got like one mistake the first time, eleven the second," Nadeau said.

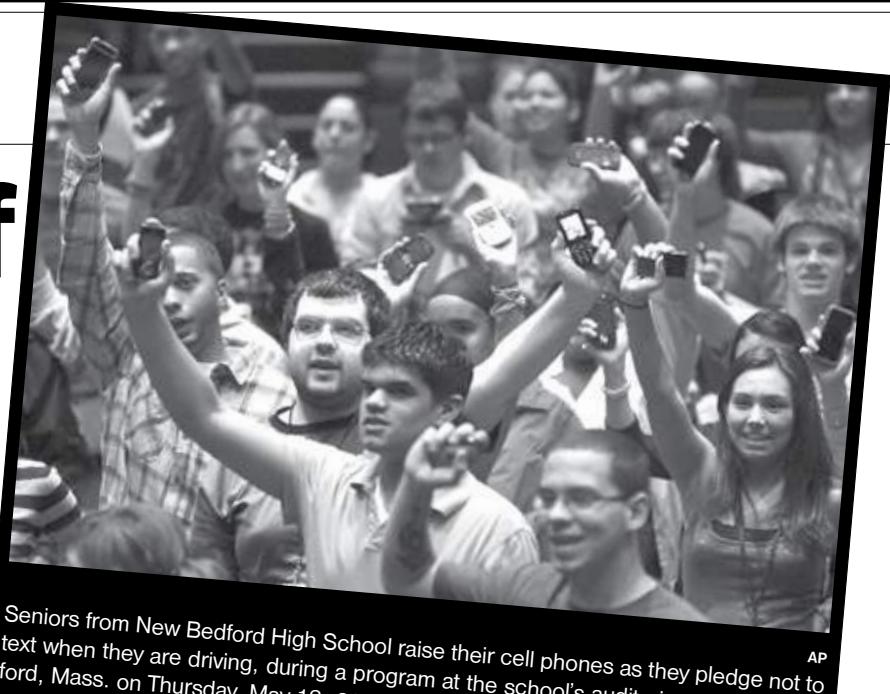
Hannah Chambers, 16, already knew something about the dangers of texting while driving. Her older cousin went



In this May 6, 2010 photo, 10th-grader Colt Nielsen tries driving while texting during a school demonstration event in White River Junction, Vt.

"If we can reach one teen out of five teens who won't text and drive then they could possibly save their life in the future," said Sgt. Jeff Gordon, public information office for the Highway Patrol in North Carolina, which has seen a rise in teen fatalities.

Motor vehicle departments and driver's education courses around the country hope to plant the no texting message early,



Seniors from New Bedford High School raise their cell phones as they pledge not to text when they are driving, during a program at the school's auditorium in New Bedford, Mass. on Thursday, May 13, 2010. AP

ON THE NET

Turn Off Texting, <http://www.turnofftexting.com>

who texts, she tells them to pull over or hand the phone to her to send the message.

"The driver needs to pay attention to the road not their cell phone," she said.

Recalls this week: Riding toys, toy choppers



In this photo provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, a remote-control helicopter, made in China and distributed by Imagine Nation Books Ltd./Books Are Fun, of Boulder, Colo., are being recalled because the rechargeable battery inside the helicopters can overheat, igniting the helicopter and posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.

Two kinds of rider toys that have been sold for more than a decade were recalled this week after a problem came to light that can injure young children.

More than two dozen incidents have been reported, two of them requiring medical treatment.

In another recall, remote-controlled helicopters with flames shooting out of them might have seemed to provide a realistic war-games touch. They were not designed that way, however, and tens of thousands were recalled this week.

Here are details of this week's recalls:

RIDING TOYS

DETAILS: The Push Around and Whisper Ride Buggies were made by Step2 Company of Streetsboro, Ohio and sold at major retailers and specialty stores from August 1999 through March 2010.

WHY: A pin attaching to the yellow knob on the handle of the buggy can loosen, causing the handle to detach from the buggy. This poses a serious risk of injury to young children.

INCIDENTS: The firm has received 28 reports of the handle detaching; two incidents required professional medical treatment and 26 resulted in minor scrapes and scratches.

HOW MANY: About 2.5 million.

FOR MORE: Call 866-860-1887 or visit <http://www.step2.com>.

REMOTE-CONTROLLED HELICOPTERS

DETAILS: The helicopters were made in China and distributed by Imagine Nation Books Ltd./Books Are Fun, of Boulder, Colo. The recall includes "Fly Dragonfly," also called "Queen Bee," remote-controlled choppers sold at book and gift fairs in schools, hospitals and office buildings nationwide from August 2009 through January 2010.

WHY: The rechargeable battery inside the helicopters can overheat, igniting the helicopter and posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.

INCIDENTS: The company received nearly 50 reports of the helicopters overheating, including six reports of flames coming from the helicopters, and one report of minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

HOW MANY: About 46,000.

FOR MORE: Call 800-917-0213 or visit <http://www.booksarefun.com/helicopter.php> or <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

PUMPKIN BUTTER

DETAILS: Amish Wedding Foods Inc. of Millersburg, Ohio, is recalling all lots of 9- 16- and 18-ounce pumpkin butter, as well as all lots of 16- and 18-ounce sweet potato butter. The pumpkin and sweet potato butters were sold under a variety of brands and were available in most states.

WHY: The items are recalled because of concerns over possible botulism contamination.

INCIDENTS: No illness has been reported.

FOR MORE: Call 330-674-9199.

BICYCLE FRAMES

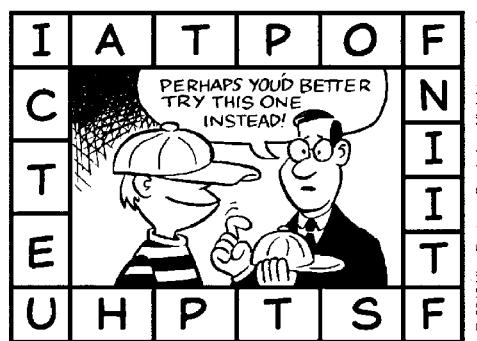
DETAILS: The frames were made by Niner Bikes of North Hollywood, Calif., in Taiwan and sold at bicycle stores nationwide and overseas from March 2008 through September 2009.

WHY: A welding deficiency can cause the bicycle frames to crack along the welds of the front triangle of the bicycle. This can cause the rider to lose control and crash.

INCIDENTS: The company has received 53 reports of cracks along the welds while bicycles were in use. No injuries have been reported.

HOW MANY: About 750.

FOR MORE: Call 877-646-3792 or visit <http://www.ninerbikes.com>.



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HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE FRAME is a famous proverb. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

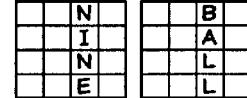
Answer: "If the cap fits put it on."

LET'S SEE HOW YOU "STACK UP" WITH THIS ONE! If 7 brick-layers, with 7 trowels, can lay 7 tons of bricks in 7 days, how long would it take 10 bricklayers, with 10 trowels, to lay 10 tons of bricks?

Answer: It would still only take 7 days for 10 bricklayers to lay 10 tons of brick.

TRY "RACKING UP" A PERFECT SCORE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. Prohibits from doing.
2. Animal home
3. A connecting element.
4. An earnest appeal.



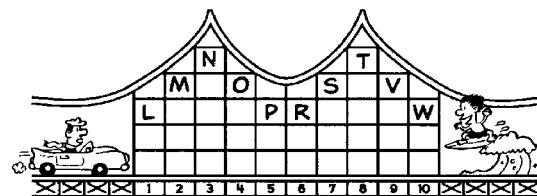
1. Catches someone.
2. A prevaricator.
3. Used for baking.
4. Pallid.

Answers: 1. Bans-nabs. 2. Lair-lair. 3. Link-link. 4. Plea-pale.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A WORD BRIDGE



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

Illustrated by David Coulson

1. Side sheltered from the wind.
2. Type of shark.
3. A wanderer.
4. Legendary bad giant.
5. A small piece of butter.
6. Untrained and inexperienced.
7. A swindle.
8. Good with animals.
9. A small glass container.
10. An artificial covering.

Answers: 1. Vale. 10. Wig. 9. Age. 5. Peal. 6. Raw. 7. Scam. 8. Tamer.

Answers: 1. Makro. 3. Nomad. 4. Tamer.

Answers: 1. Bans-nabs. 2. Lair-lair. 3. Link-link. 4. Plea-pale.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American novelist, poet and painter—and prominent member of the Beat Generation of artists—William S. Burroughs who made the following declaration: “I don’t care if people hate my guts; I assume most of them do. The important question is whether they are in a position to do anything about it.”

■ If you wanted to dig to the center of the earth, you’d have to go down about 4,000 miles.

■ Those of you who need your daily java fix probably won’t be surprised to learn that coffee is one of the most popular drinks worldwide and is one of the most traded agricultural commodities. Due to limitations in cultivation, however, Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. that produces the beans.

■ The world’s largest dam, located in Canada, is 2,790 feet long—twice as long as Arizona and Nevada’s Hoover Dam. The truly amazing thing isn’t its size, though; it’s the manner of construction. Over the course of several months, the dam was built entirely by beavers.

■ According to industry experts, beverage makers sell 9 billion cases of carbonated soda in the United States every year.

■ If you ever open a magazine or watch TV, you’ve probably seen at least one ad from the “Got Milk?” campaign. You probably didn’t know, though, that the same campaign also broke new advertising ground with ads at bus stops that weren’t just visual; they also gave off the odor of fresh-baked cookies. That particular approach was quickly abandoned due to concerns about allergies.

■ Popular cooking expert and television host Rachael Ray reportedly has a sign hanging outside her door that says “Martha doesn’t live here.”

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.”—Mark Twain

MAGIC MAZE

METAL CITIES

CWUNOTNORISQOMK
IFKDOEBLZXWUSQO
NLJCDTEHSFDCAEG
NYWLLOARLIVTSQOL
PWONDRLLELLKIHLA
FGOMZINCVILLEDV
ECITHBZOELVYWMD
VNUUDNSRQRPIDNIA
EMLLJIHTIFSANE
POTNITTNIOPDAEL
GNIRPSEDPUCNITL

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Gold Hill Ironton Leadville Tin Top
Golden Leadmine Silvertip Tin Town
Goldmine Leadpoint Silverton Zincville
Iron Rock Leadvale Tincup

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

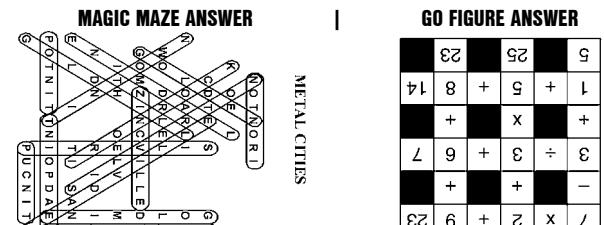
	X		+		23
-		+		+	
	÷		+		7
+		X		+	
	+		+		14
5		25		23	

1 2 3 3 5 6 7 8 9
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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

METAL CITIES

GO FIGURE ANSWER



Pug smells really gnarly



Paw's corner

by Sam Mazzotta

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a 1-year-old pug that really smells. I take “Deb” to have her bathed, and a day later she smells again. I was giving her a bath every week and was told that it would dry out her skin. What should I do about it? I hate to give her up, but she smells really bad. Sign me—Pinching My Nose in Rochester, N.Y.

DEAR PINCHING MY NOSE: I’ve never owned a dog that smelled so bad I had to give it up. But I have owned a few smelly dogs in my lifetime. In most cases of chronic odiferousness, a skin problem or other medical condition is the culprit.

That’s why I would recommend you take Deb to a veterinarian who has experience with pugs and their unique issues. Any time a dog’s odor is frequently and noticeably unpleasant—not just when you get up close to their fur and sniff, but almost literally “Oh man, Deb’s in the room,” you should have her checked out.

One problem that’s been noted in pugs is yeast infections, which can produce a rather gnarly smell. Dogs prone to these infections need careful monitoring and shouldn’t be bathed too much (as dry skin

can worsen the problem).

Because pugs can suffer from skin problems and allergies, you want to be careful about how frequently Deb is bathed and what shampoos are used. Talk to the vet about best grooming practices for a pug.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw’s Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.PawsCorner.com.

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Carrot cake garden cupcakes

Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

muffin tins with 24 paper liners.

In a large bowl, beat the sugar, oil and eggs together. Add vanilla.

In another bowl, the kids may measure and sift together the flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Add these dry ingredients to the bowl of wet ingredients and stir well.

Stir in carrots, drained pineapple, raisins, walnuts and zest.

Divide batter evenly among muffin cups. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean. Let cool completely on wire rack.

For frosting, cream together cream cheese, butter and vanilla in a mixing bowl. Slowly add confectioner’s sugar and continue beating until smooth.

For carrot decoration, stir together 3-4 tablespoons of frosting with orange food coloring. Spoon into a sandwich-size plastic food bag. Clip off a tiny bit from



a bottom corner of the bag and gently squeeze frosting out in zigzag fashion to form a carrot shape on frosted cupcakes. Top with fresh carrot-top greens or parsley.

Extra tip: For an earthy taste to walnuts, toast them on a tray in a 350 F oven for 6 to 8 minutes. Cool and chop.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson’s award-winning series “Donna’s Day” is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasdaday.com and link to the NEW Donna’s Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is “Donna Erickson’s Fabulous Funstuff for Families.”

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Preheat oven to 350 F. Let kids fill

Life & Style

5 masterpieces stolen in \$123M Paris museum heist

PARIS (AP)—A broken alarm system made it as easy as 1-2-3: A masked intruder clipped a padlock, smashed a window and stole a Picasso, a Matisse and three other masterpieces from a Paris museum Thursday—a \$123 million haul that is one of the world's biggest art heists.

Offloading the artwork may prove a tougher task, however, with Interpol and collectors worldwide now on high alert.

In what seemed like an art thief's fantasy, the alarm system had been broken since March in parts of the Paris Museum of Modern Art, according to the city's mayor, Bertrand Delanoe.

The museum, in a tony neighborhood across the Seine River from the Eiffel Tower, reopened in 2006 after spending \$18 million (euro15 million) and two years upgrading its security system. Spare parts had been ordered to fix the alarm but had not yet arrived, the mayor said in a statement.

So with no alarm to worry about, a lone masked intruder entered the museum about 3:50 a.m., said Christophe Girard, deputy culture secretary at Paris City Hall. The thief cut a padlock on a gate, then broke a side window and climbed inside—his movements caught on one



AP
Police officers search for clues as they pack up the frames of the stolen paintings outside the Paris Museum of Modern Art, following the report of five paintings having been stolen, Thursday May 20, 2010.

of the museum's functioning cameras, according to the Paris prosecutor's office.

The intruder later slipped back out, carrying the canvases and leaving behind empty frames. The whole thing took 15 minutes, a police official said.

Three security guards were on duty overnight, but "they saw nothing," Girard said. A

night watchman discovered the theft around 7 a.m.

The stolen works included Pablo Picasso's "Le pigeon aux petits-pois" (The Pigeon with the Peas), an ochre-toned Cubist oil painting worth an estimated \$28 million (euro23 million), and "La Pastorale" (Pastoral), a pastel-hued oil painting of nudes on a hillside by Henri Matisse

worth about \$17.5 million (euro15 million), Girard said.

Also seized were "La femme à l'éventail" (Woman with a Fan) by Amedeo Modigliani, "L'olivier près de l'Estaque" (Olive Tree near Estaque) by Georges Braque and "Nature morte aux chandeliers" (Still Life with Chandeliers) by Fernand Léger.

Maya Angelou throws garden party for 82nd birthday

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Poet Maya Angelou celebrated a belated 82nd birthday Thursday with a few celebrity friends and a few choice words about political divisiveness in the United States.

Singers Naomi Judd and Martina McBride sang "Happy Birthday to You" to Angelou, who sat at a table in her newly refurbished backyard garden, while hip-hop artist and actor Common improvised a song to honor her.

"I have an attitude of gratitude. Nobody promised me this day," Angelou said in an interview with The Associated Press, explaining how she keeps writing.

Despite her generally upbeat attitude, Angelou said she finds the state of national politics to be tragic.

"I mean, this is our country," said Angelou, whose birthday was April 4. "This is a country of Republicans, of Democrats



AP
Maya Angelou smiles as she greets guests at a garden party at her home Thursday, May 20, 2010 in Winston-Salem, N.C.

and of independents. And we are going to work together to make it better. Or we will not. And we will make it worse. And that's dumb."

She declined say whether she blamed racism because President Obama is black or who she blames for the problems: "I

can't deal with it. Some of it is blithering ignorance. We look stupid in the world's eyes. ... It polarizes us more, and I'm not that. I don't do that."

Most of the day focused on the friends and family who gathered to honor Angelou, who wore a pink pantsuit, a printed

top and a mauve hat, along with fuzzy socks that helped her walk. A tent with yellow and white drapes covered the tables where about 100 guests ate while Common and McBride told the crowd what Angelou meant to them.

Common said he first discovered Angelou's poetry in the fifth grade on the South Side of Chicago, when her poem "Still I Rise" touched his soul.

"It was always something that I could reference to at times when I was feeling down or doubting myself," he told AP. "I just thought of that phrase, 'Still I Rise.' And it still resonates with me."

While others waxed poetic about Angelou and her affect on them, Lee Daniels, the Oscar-nominated director of "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Lee Sapire," kept his words simple.

CW adding 2 new series, 'Smallville' ending

NEW YORK (AP)—The young CW network (after CBS, Fox, ABC, NBC and Univision) targets its programming primarily at women aged 18 to 34. Its most popular series, "The Vampire Diaries," was introduced only last year.

The CW also said Thursday that the Superman drama "Smallville" will end after its 10th and final season next year.

The sixth most popular

broadcast network (after CBS, Fox, ABC, NBC and Univision) targets its programming primarily at women aged 18 to 34. Its most popular series, "The Vampire Diaries," was introduced only last year.

"Nikita" gets the Thursday time slot after the vampires. The show stars Maggie Q—whose movie credits include "Mission: Impossible III" and

the fourth installment in the "Die Hard" series, "Live Free or Die Hard"—as an assassin trained by the U.S. government who breaks the rules by falling in love. Now her shadowy old agency wants her dead.

"We've been trying to develop a female-oriented action-adventure show since we started the CW," said Dawn Ostroff,

entertainment president at the

Estimates of the total value of the paintings varied: The prosecutor's office initially put their worth as high as \$613 million (euro500 million) but later downgraded the figure to about \$111 million (euro90 million). Girard said the total value was about \$123 million (euro100 million).

The broken alarm system also renewed concerns about museum security in the French capital. There was no operating surveillance system when a thief made off with a red sketchbook of 33 Picasso drawings from the nearby Picasso Museum while it was undergoing renovations last summer.

Within hours of Thursday's heist, red-and-white tape surrounded the Museum of Modern Art and signs on the Art Deco building's ornate bronze doors said it was closed for "technical reasons."

On a cordoned-off balcony, police wearing blue gloves and face masks examined the museum's broken window and the discarded frames. The paintings appeared to have been carefully removed from the disassembled frames, not sliced out.

Investigators were trying to determine whether the intruder was operating alone, Gi-

ard told reporters. Stephane Thefo, a specialist at Interpol who handles international art theft investigations, expressed doubt that one person could have pulled it off the heist, even if only one person was caught on camera.

Many high-profile art thefts have ended in failure, with the artworks recovered as thieves struggle to trade their illegal bounty for cash. But some famous stolen works remain at large—such as those seized more than two decades ago from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Alice Farren-Bradley of the Art Loss Registry in London said the Paris theft appeared to be one of the biggest art heists ever, considering the prominence of the artists, the value of the paintings and the high profile of the museum.

However, she said it will be "virtually impossible" to sell such prominent paintings on the open market and typically stolen art fetches lower prices on the black market.

"Very often they can be used as collateral to broker other deals" involving drugs or weapons, she said. "They are not necessarily going to be bought by some great lover of the arts."

Suge Knight is arrested in LA for alleged assault

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ex-rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was arrested Thursday after he allegedly pointed a gun at a man and then drove off in his Cadillac, police said.

Knight, 45, was stopped by California Highway Patrol officers in suburban Gardena at about 12:30 a.m. and immediately turned over to Los Angeles police who swarmed around his white Escalade, according to police and news videos.

The brawny, bald, bearded Knight was handcuffed.

"He was cooperative," Los Angeles police officer April Harding said.

Knight's car was stopped after someone called authorities to report that Knight had pointed a gun at him, Harding said. She did not know whether any weapon was found and did not have other details.

Knight was booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon—a gun—and also on a misdemeanor warrant alleging that he drove with a suspended license, Harding said.

He was being held on \$65,000 bail, she said.

It was not immediately clear whether Knight, a convicted felon, was still on parole. If he



is, carrying a gun would be a parole violation that could end him back in jail.

A call to Knight's attorney, Marc Brumer, was not immediately returned.

Knight co-founded Death Row Records, which helped make stars of rappers such as Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg and the late Tupac Shakur. The label's fortunes—and Knight's—started to slide when Shakur was shot and killed in 1996 while riding in the passenger seat of Knight's car in Las Vegas.

The debt-ridden label later went bankrupt and was sold.

Knight and several Los Angeles police officers were sued for wrongful death in connection with the 1997 death of rapper Biggie Smalls, who was shot outside a Los Angeles museum.

The rapper's estate claimed that Knight ordered the killing in revenge for Shakur's death. Knight denied the allegations and the suit was dismissed in April.

Last year, Knight pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery for beating his then-girlfriend in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2008.

In 1992, Knight was convicted of assault and placed on probation, then jailed for five years in 1996 for violating that probation.

Lohan makes bail, arrest warrant recalled

Pee-Wee leaving the playhouse for Broadway stint

NEW YORK (AP)—Pee-Wee is Broadway bound.

“The Pee-Wee Herman Show” will have a 48-performance run at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre starting Oct. 26.

It is based in part on the cult TV show “Pee-Wee’s Playhouse” and will star Pee-Wee himself, Paul Reubens.

Producer Scott Sanders said Thursday that it will follow “a day in the life of our bow-tied hero.”

Other cast members will be announced later.



In this Dec. 7, 2009 file photo, actor Paul Reubens portraying Pee-wee Herman poses for a portrait while promoting “The Pee-wee Herman Show” live stage play in Los Angeles. AP

Univision starting dancing and ‘Survivor’-type shows

NEW YORK (AP)—The Spanish-speaking Univision TV network will debut its own versions of celebrity dancing and “Survivor”-type competitions in the fall season.

The nation’s fifth most popular network said Thursday it will start more than 20 new series next season on Univision and its related TeleFutura broadcast and Galavision cable networks.

“Mira Quien Baila,” which means “Look Who’s Dancing,” will be a “Dancing With the Stars” competition that pairs celebrity contestants and dancers. “Desafio: La Gran Batalla” (The Challenge: The Big Battle) pits a group of contestants stranded on a tropical island with bare necessities.

In a presentation to advertisers, Univision executives argued that marketers couldn’t ignore the growth in the Spanish-speaking market.



LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has recalled an arrest warrant for Lindsay Lohan hours after it was issued.

Los Angeles Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini says a bond was posted for Lohan on Thursday and the warrant was recalled.

Superior Court Judge Marsha Revel issued the warrant earlier Thursday after Lohan missed a mandatory court hearing. Bail was set at \$100,000.

Lohan’s attorney told the court that Lohan’s passport was stolen while she was at the Cannes Film Festival so she was unable to return to Los Angeles in time for Thursday’s hearing.

Lohan had been subject to arrest upon returning to Los Angeles. Attorney Shawn Chapman Holley says the actress would be back on Friday.

Holley did not immediately respond to telephone and e-mail messages Thursday.

In this May 17, 2010 file photo, Lindsay Lohan arrives for an event during the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, France. AP

Axl Rose countersues ex-manager for \$5 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Axl Rose has filed a countersuit against his former manager, claiming the man and his music management company tried to sabotage Guns N’ Roses to try to force Rose into a reunion tour with the band’s original members.

Rose sued Irving Azoff and Front Line Management, the company Azoff founded, for \$5 million on Monday in Los Angeles.

Front Line Management sued Rose in March for nearly \$1.9 million in unpaid fees, claiming it had an oral agreement with Rose to receive 15 percent of the Guns N’ Roses’ frontman’s commissions.

Rose says in his lawsuit that Azoff lied about planning a Guns N’ Roses tour with the band Van Halen and failed to promote the band’s 2008 comeback album “Chinese Democracy.”

The lawsuit claims Azoff wanted to sabotage Rose and have a 2009 and 2010 tour fail so Rose would have no option but to reunite and tour with former bandmates.

In this Sept. 11, 2006, file photo, Axl Rose is seen backstage at the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards in New York. AP



Bret Michaels hospitalized after ‘warning stroke’



In this Jan. 10, 2010 photo, Singer Bret Michaels arrives at the NBC Universal Winter 2010 press tour party in Pasadena, Calif. AP

percent yet, especially with the hole found in his heart.”

Additional tests were being conducted to determine the best course of treatment. Doctors said Michaels is currently being treated with a daily injection of a blood thinner to reduce the risk of clots.

The website says Michaels was “up, walking, talking, continuing his daily rehab and very happy to be alive.”

“He has made it clear he is sick and tired of being in the hospital and is ready to rock again,” the site says.

Michaels’ neurosurgeon said that while the Poison frontman has a “fantastic attitude” about making a full recovery, “Bret’s brain and body are not quite 100

Couple’s polar politics threaten mutual respect

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with my college boyfriend for 2 1/2 years. We have had our share of struggles, but worked through most of them over time.

Lately, our polar opposite political views have driven a wedge between us. I feel we are losing respect for each other as well as our sense of intimacy and love.

How can we learn to have a mutual respect for our different political opinions while not compromising what each truly believes?

RIDING A SEESAW IN MIAMI



Dear Abby

DEAR RIDING A SEESAW: Begin by accepting that not all couples are in lockstep when it comes to their political beliefs. It is easier when you have respect for each other in other areas of your relationship. Then remember that when it comes to voting, individuals are not joined at the hip. And if that doesn’t work, follow the example set by James Carville and Mary Matalin, a high-profile, politically disparate couple whose differences haven’t driven them apart.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Every time I go out with a man who says he wants a woman who treats him well and doesn’t play around, I get burned. I’m not a game player, and I end up tripping over my feelings every single time. I give every guy the benefit of the doubt, and I’m the one who is always disappointed! At 29, I am contemplating life with eight cats and a set of knitting needles because I have finally had it with dating. Aren’t there any men who actually mean what they say anymore?

STEPHANIE IN HOUSTON

DEAR STEPHANIE: I’m tempted to say no, that all the good ones are married off—but it wouldn’t be true. So here’s what I’m recommending: Start asking your friends of both sexes what you may be doing to attract men who hurt you or flake out. When a woman is repeatedly hurt because she gives every guy “the benefit of the doubt,” it’s because she’s attracting the wrong people.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago my husband and I took in a family member’s infant daughter until a time when her mother could get back on her feet. That time never came, and we went through the process of adoption. We have been a happy family ever since.

I am now pregnant for the first time. Several friends and relatives have offered to throw us a shower. I am unsure of the proper etiquette since this is our second child (but our first biological child). My husband and I don’t want to seem to be asking for anything, especially if having a shower for a second baby is considered improper. But we have never had a chance to experience the fun side of a pregnancy. I would appreciate your thoughts.

FIRST-TIME PREGNANT, SECOND-TIME MOM

DEAR FIRST-TIME PREGNANT: I see no reason why there shouldn’t be a shower for your baby. It’s a lovely way to celebrate the new life you are bringing into the world. However, according to Emily Post: “Mothers and sisters of the mother-to-be should NOT give the shower. Naturally, mothers and sisters should be invited, but as with any other gift-giving event, they should not initiate an invitation that bears an obligation on the part of the recipient to provide a present to direct relatives.”

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

CLASSIFIED ADS



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CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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Armstrong denies new doping accusations

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP SPORTS WRITER

With the cycling season kicking into high gear, the strongest doping allegations yet against Lance Armstrong surfaced Thursday in a barrage of detailed messages from Floyd Landis, the disgraced rider and former teammate who finally confessed to years of cheating himself.

In a series of e-mails sent to sponsors and sports officials, Landis alleged Armstrong not only joined him in doping but taught others how to beat the system and paid the former president of the International Cycling Union to keep a failed test quiet.

"We have nothing to hide," Armstrong said at an impromptu news conference before the fifth stage of the Tour of California.

"Credibility," the seven-time Tour de France winner said in Visalia. "Floyd lost his credibility a long time ago."

In two e-mails obtained by The Associated Press, Landis also admitted for the first time what had long been suspected—that he was guilty of doping for several years before being stripped of his 2006 Tour de France title.

"I want to clear my conscience," Landis told ESPN.com. "I don't want to be part of the problem any more."

Neither Landis nor his family returned repeated messages from the AP.

The *Wall Street Journal* first reported the details of the e-mails on its website early Thursday. The newspaper also reported Landis was cooperating with the Food & Drug Administration's criminal investigations unit and had met with FDA special agent Jeff Novitzky, the lead investigator in the BALCO case.

Landis alleged that Armstrong and longtime coach Johan Bruyneel paid former UCI president Hein Verbruggen to cover up a test in 2002 after Armstrong purportedly tested positive for the blood-boosting drug EPO. The UCI denied changing or concealing a positive test result.

In an e-mail Landis sent to USA Cycling chief Steve Johnson, he said Armstrong's positive EPO test was in 2002, around the time he won the Tour de Suisse. Armstrong won the Tour de Suisse



Cyclist Lance Armstrong is tended to after crashing during the fifth stage of the Tour of California cycling race in the outskirts of Visalia, Calif., Thursday, May 20, 2010.

in 2001 and did not compete in 2002.

"We're a little confused," Armstrong said.

The e-mail to Johnson also said: "Look forward to much more detail as soon as you can demonstrate that you can be trusted to do the right thing."

Landis also implicated at least 16 other people in various doping acts, including longtime Armstrong confidant George Hincapie, Olympic medalist Levi Leipheimer and Canadian cyclist Michael Barry.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported another e-mail from Landis also linked another top American racer, Dave Zabriskie, to doping.

"At the end of the day, he pointed the finger at everybody still involved in cycling, everybody that's still enjoying the sport, everybody that still believes in the sport, everybody that's still working in the sport, was in the crosshairs," Armstrong said. "Yes, I'm standing here with all you guys because I won the Tour de France seven times."

Landis said he was asked at one point to stay in an apartment where

Armstrong was living in 2003 and check the temperature in a refrigerator where blood was being stored for future transfusions.

"Mr. Armstrong was planning on being gone for a few weeks to train he asked me to stay in his place and make sure the electricity didn't turn off or something go wrong with the refrigerator," Landis wrote.

Landis is part of a long list of former Armstrong teammates and former U.S. Postal Service riders who have either acknowledged or been caught doping.

Frankie Andreu has said he used EPO while preparing for the Tour de France on Armstrong's team in the late 1990s. Olympic gold medalist Tyler Hamilton tested positive after the 2004 Athens Games, kept his medal on what amounted to a technicality, then retired last year after telling the AP he knowingly took a banned steroid. Roberto Heras was stripped of his win at the Spanish Vuelta in 2005 and Spanish rider Manuel Beltran was kicked out of the Tour de France, both found to have used EPO.

Hincapie said he was "really disappointed" by the allegations. Jim Ochowicz, a former top USA Cycling official—who was also implicated by Landis—defended himself and Hincapie.

"These allegations are not true, absolutely unfounded and unproven," said Ochowicz, now the president of BMC Racing, Hincapie's current team. "This is disappointing to anyone who works in the sport or is a fan of the sport."

Johnson said USA Cycling would not comment about Landis' series of e-mails, citing its policy on not discussing "doping allegations, investigations or any aspect of an adjudication process." The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency also declined comment for similar reasons.

More accusations from Landis could be coming, however. In his e-mail to Johnson, Landis indicated he has several diaries detailing other experiences.

Until about 2005, Armstrong worked extensively with Michele Ferrari, an Italian doctor who was linked to numerous doping issues, but was cleared by an appeals court in 2006. Landis claimed Fer-

rari extracted "half a liter of blood" from him in 2002, so he could have it transfused during the Tour de France.

"Mr. Armstrong was not witness to the extraction but he and I had lengthy discussions about it on our training rides during which time he also explained to me the evolution of EPO testing and how transfusions were now necessary due to the inconvenience of the new test," Landis wrote.

Andy Rihs, the owner of the Phonak team for which Landis rode when he won the Tour, issued a statement saying Landis' claims were "lies" and a "last, tragic attempt" to get publicity. In one of his e-mails, Landis alleges that Rihs was aware of his doping and helped fund it.

Like Armstrong, UCI president Pat McQuaid questioned Landis' credibility.

"He already made those accusations in the past," McQuaid said. "Armstrong has been accused many times in the past but nothing has been proved against him. And in this case, I have to question the guy's credibility. There is no proof of what he says. We are speaking about a guy who has been condemned for doping before a court."

Armstrong said Landis threatened long ago to go public with these allegations. He finally told him to do whatever he felt was necessary.

"This is a man that's been under oath several times and had a very different version," Armstrong said. "This is a man that wrote a book for profit that had a completely different version. This is somebody that took, some would say, close to \$1 million from innocent people for his defense under a different premise. Now when it's all run out, the story changes."

Later Thursday, Armstrong crashed in the stage near Visalia, Calif., abandoning the race and needing stitches and X-rays, which were negative. It did not seem the wreck would impact plans for the Tour de France and challenging rival-turned-teammate-turned-rival Alberto Contador, the defending champion of the race the Texan once dominated with relative ease.

"I will take a few days to recover and be on the bike as soon as possible," Armstrong said.

tis and allergies, and he's been given a bunch of different medicines.

Turns out he has a chronic sinus infection. He was given a shot and a batch of heavy antibiotics that should finally clear things up—but only after they threaten to clean him out. That's why he stood on the driving range wondering if 18 holes was a good idea.

"I really didn't think I was going to play this morning," he said.

Now the really weird part: The longer Day's medical woes have dragged, the better he's played. He's had three top-25 finishes this season, all in the last five weeks.

Day suggests it's because he's practiced less and lowered his own expectations.

"I think I'm going out there and trying to play smarter golf," said Day, who is only 22 but grew up being described as Australia's answer to Tiger Woods. "I didn't chip and putt as well as I would like to at the start of the year, and everything is turning around nicely now."

That breakthrough, first PGA Tour win would be even better.

A very good day for Aussie Jason Day at Nelson

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Jason Day's stomach was acting up while he was on the driving range Thursday morning, an angry reaction to antibiotics that are supposed to wipe out a lingering, often-misdiagnosed sinus infection.

He was thinking about withdrawing from the Byron Nelson Championship. Then he realized it looked like rain and he'd left his umbrella in the car.

Walking to the parking lot, Day pictured himself getting behind the wheel and heading to his home in Fort Worth. He ended up toughing it out, and "it was probably a good idea," he said with a smile.

Day birdied four of his first six holes on his way to a 4-under 66 for a share of the first-round lead when play was suspended late Thursday.

The threatening skies that sent Day fetching his umbrella never actually drenched the TPC Four Seasons course, but the radar looked so scary there was a delay of 3 hours, 44 minutes.

Joe Durant finished with an eagle and a birdie to match Day at 66. Steve Elkington, Hunter Mahan and Jarrod Lyle were still on the course with scores of 4-under.

Elkington will have two holes left, Mahan three and Lyle seven when play resumes at 7:15 a.m. Friday, pushing back the start of the second round by an hour. Thursday's late starters are the first to go off Friday, which means it will be a long day for them.

Among those working overtime will be 16-year-old Jordan Spieth, a high school junior

from Dallas and the reigning U.S. Junior Amateur champion. He's the first high schooler to get a sponsor's exemption into this event since Tiger Woods in 1993, and he showed he belongs by shooting even par through 11 holes.

Spieth woke up nervous and held his emotions in check during the delay by playing table tennis, shopping for souvenirs and putting. After

a raucous ovation at his introduction, he ripped his tee shot down the middle, beyond his two playing partners. He parred the first four holes, then dropped in a birdie. He finished with a par putt and walked away saying, "I wanted to keep playing, I didn't care how dark it was."

Dustin Johnson was part of a group tied for second at 3-under, one shot behind. He's No. 9 on the season's money list, the top earner in this field.

Defending champion on Rory Sabbatini was among a pack at 68.

Vijay Singh and Rickie Fowler got off to poor starts in their quests to qualify for the U.S. Open. Both need to be near the top of the leaderboard to get into the top 50 in the world rankings by Monday's deadline, but both were stopped at 2-over. Fowler had two holes left, Singh three.

Although the weather made for a long

afternoon, it helped Day. He used the down time to recover from the strength-sapping eight-plus holes he'd played.

"I just kind of sat down and rested," Day said. "I just sat down at a table with a bunch of friends and my wife and we sat there and talked, drank a lot of water, tried to keep up with my nutrition at least in there."

After the restart, he sure kept things interesting: two birdies, two bogeys and several scrambling pars—like on No. 1, his first full hole after the break. His tee shot was so poor it landed on the cart path, against a fence.

"I don't think any player has been over there except me today," he said.

Day's season has been a lot like this round, spurts of great shots and bad ones, and ever-present illness.

His physical problems began at the season-opening tournament in Hawaii. He's seen about six doctors trying to figure out what's wrong. The diagnoses he's heard include swine flu, bronchi-

HP BYRON NELSON CHAMPIONSHIP

Conrad slam in 9th gives Braves stunning 10-9 win



ATLANTA (AP)—Brooks Conrad hit a pinch-hit grand slam to cap a seven-run ninth inning that gave the Atlanta Braves a stunning 10-9 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday.

The Braves fell behind 8-0 against rookie Mike Leake and were still down 9-3 heading to the ninth. Four straight hits, including Nate McLouth's two-run single, gave the Braves hope. A walk to David Ross loaded the bases with no outs, bringing the potential tying run to the plate.

Martin Prado hit a grounder to third that looked like a double play, but Miguel Cairo could not get the ball out of his glove—Cincinnati's fourth error. Jason Heyward struck out against Arthur Rhodes, and Cincinnati turned to closer Francisco Cordero (1-3), who served up the home run to Conrad. The ball deflected off the glove of left fielder Laynce Nix and over the wall.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 2

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright dominated after a shaky start and Matt Holliday got his first two RBIs in four games since moving to third in the order as St. Louis beat Florida.

Wainwright (6-2) allowed the first two first-inning runs against him this season, but he settled down to go seven innings. He allowed six hits and struck out eight. Hanley Ramirez had an RBI single and a walk for the Marlins, who lost for only the second time in eight games.

Phillies 5, Cubs 4

At Philadelphia, Raul Ibanez hit a tie-breaking RBI single in the eighth inning, Jimmy Rollins hit a three-run homer and Chase Utley also went deep as Philadelphia edged Chicago.

Danys Baez (2-1) retired all three batters he faced to earn the win. Jose Contreras pitched out of a jam in the ninth for his second save in two tries. He's filling in as the closer with Brad Lidge and Ryan Madson on the disabled list.

Kosuke Fukudome hit a tying solo shot in the eighth, and Derrek Lee also connected for Chicago. John Grabow (0-3) took the loss after coming on in relief in the eighth.

Brewers 4, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, George Kottaras, playing only because of an injury, doubled in a run as Milwaukee rallied from a three-run deficit to beat Pittsburgh and end a nine-game losing streak.

The Brewers came back from 3-0 deficit in the first with two two-run innings. Carlos Villanueva finished it off by pitching the ninth for the first save this season by a Brewers reliever other than Trevor Hoffman, who sat out the two-game series to work on mechanical problems.

Villanueva hit pinch-hitter Ryan Doumit in the back with a pitch with one out, only to get Delwyn Young to ground into a game-ending double play.

Mets 10, Nationals 7

At Washington, David Wright hit a three-run double and had four RBIs for New York, and Raul Valdes filled in admirably for injured starter John Maine for five innings.

Wright put the Mets ahead 3-0 with a double but in the bottom of the first Maine threw just five pitches—a walk to Nyjer Morgan—before Mets manager Jerry Manuel removed him. Maine,



Atlanta Braves' Brooks Conrad, center, celebrates with coach Terry Pendleton after hitting a walk-off grand slam in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Atlanta Thursday, May 19, 2010.

who has had problems with his right shoulder, left the game “for precautionary reasons,” the Mets said. He will see a doctor Friday.

Valdes (2-1) pitched five innings, allowing three runs and seven hits. He struck out six and walked one.

Wright added a sacrifice fly during a five-run fifth inning for the Mets, who had lost nine of 11.

Rockies 4, Astros 0

At Houston, Ubaldo Jimenez allowed one hit over seven innings and Troy Tulowitzki had a three-run homer for Colorado, which beat Houston to break a three-game losing streak.

The only hit Jimenez (8-1) allowed was Humberto Quintero's single to start the third inning. Jimenez, who improved his major league-low ERA to 0.99, struck out four and walked two.

Matt Belisle allowed one hit in the eighth before Manny Corpas did the same in the ninth to complete the shutout.

A single by Brad Hawpe in the eighth drove in a run to make it 4-0.

Diamondbacks 8, Giants 7

At Phoenix, Conor Jackson scored the tie-breaking run on a wild pitch with two outs in the eighth inning as Arizona completed a two-game sweep of San Francisco.

Mark Reynolds hit his 100th career home run and had three RBIs, and Stephen Drew drove in two runs for the Diamondbacks.

Reynolds was at-bat when Jeremy Affeldt (2-3) bounced a pitch well short of the plate, allowing the winning run to score. Juan Uribe and John Bowker hit home runs and Aubrey Huff had two RBIs for the Giants.

Dodgers 4, Padres 1

At Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw pitched 7 1-3 gritty innings to win his third straight start and Garret Anderson delivered the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly for Los Angeles.

Kershaw (4-2) allowed a run and seven hits, struck out seven and walked two. He has given up no more than two runs in seven of his last eight starts.

Ronald Belisario struck out both batters he faced and Jonathan Broxton pitched a scoreless ninth for his eighth

save in 10 attempts.

Manny Ramirez was out of the Los Angeles Dodgers' starting lineup on Thursday night for the second straight game because of a sore little toe on his left foot. The injury occurred while the slugging left fielder was swinging his leg back and forth in the trainer's room, trying to get loose before Wednesday night's 10-5 loss to San Diego, and accidentally made contact with a table.

Mariners 4, Blue Jays 3
At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr.'s game-winning, pinch-hit single in the ninth inning capped Seattle's three-run rally off American League saves leader Kevin Gregg and gave the Mariners a victory over the Toronto Blue.

Seattle ended a five-game losing streak and Griffey's teammates mobbed him between first and second base. Nine days ago the Mariners rallied to his defense following a report he was unavailable to pinch-hit in an earlier loss because he was sleeping in the clubhouse.

It was the first game-ending hit of Seattle's disappointing season. Josh Bard tied the game with a sacrifice fly.

Royals 9, Indians 3

At Cleveland, Luke Hochevar pitched a complete game and Alberto Callaspo hit a three-run homer as Kansas City beat Cleveland.

Hochevar (4-2) gave up four hits to go the distance for the third time in his career. He had no trouble with the Indians, who were without the top two hitters in their lineup—Asdrubal Cabrera and Grady Sizemore, both out with injuries. Hochevar, who had lost his last three starts to Cleveland, gave up two first-inning singles and then retired 15 of 16 before Choo Shin-soo's double in the sixth.

Tigers 5, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, Miguel Cabrera and Magglio Ordonez both drove in two runs for Detroit, and Jeremy Bonderman won for the first time in over a month.

Tyson Ross lasted four innings in his second start, allowing three runs and seven hits. Ross was an emergency starter for Oakland when Justin Duchscherer was unable to start last Saturday. He's given up seven runs over 10 2-3 innings after allowing six in his first 16.

Rays 8, Yankees 6

At New York, Carlos Pena homered twice and Ben Zobrist and B.J. Upton also connected as Tampa Bay won its sixth straight game.

A day after tagging A.J. Burnett, the majors' best team came out swinging against Andy Pettitte (5-1).

Jason Bartlett led off with a double, Carl Crawford followed with an RBI single and then Zobrist homered. Just like that, it was 3-0.

Red Sox 6, Twins 2

At Boston, Kevin Youkilis hit a three-run homer and added an RBI double to help Jon Lester earn his fourth straight victory. Lester (4-3) allowed two runs—one earned—six hits and zero walks, striking out nine for his fifth career complete game.

Adrian Beltre homered and Victor Martinez had three doubles for Boston, which completed a two-game sweep. The Twins have scored six runs total while losing their last three games to fall out of sole possession of first place and into a tie with Detroit atop the AL Central.

Rangers 13, Orioles 7

At Arlington, Texas, Nelson Cruz had a three-run homer and drove in four runs in his first career four-hit game as Texas ran its winning streak to four games.

Rangers starter Scott Feldman (2-4) had the benefit of early run support to win for the first time since April 11 despite allowing a career-high 12 hits over six innings.

Feldman gave up four runs, struck out five and walked one as AL West leader Texas won for the 10th time in 14 games.

Angels 6, White Sox 5

At Chicago, Ervin Santana pitched seven solid innings and Juan Rivera hit a two-run homer as Los Angeles edged Chicago.

Kendry Morales had three hits and drove in two runs for the Angels, who have won five of seven.

Santana (3-3) didn't have any problems with the White Sox, who came into the game with the worst batting average in baseball at .230. He allowed one unearned run and seven hits. He struck out six and pitched around three walks.

Source: 76ers agree to terms with Collins



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers agreed to terms with TV analyst Doug Collins to become their new coach, two people familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The people spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity because the announcement has not been made public. An official announcement was likely to come Friday.

One of the people familiar with the deal said Collins agreed to a four-year contract.

Team president Ed Stefanski interviewed Collins on May 1, and he emerged as the leading choice to replace the fired Eddie Jordan. The pool of candidates included former Dallas coach Avery Johnson and Toronto coach Sam Mitchell.

Collins is 332-287 in coaching stints with Chicago, Detroit and Washington. The 76ers made him the No. 1 overall pick in the 1973 draft, and he played eight seasons with the team.

The 58-year-old will need time to build a winner in Philadelphia that other coaches haven't been afforded. Since Larry Brown left in 2003, four others have failed to coach more than 82 games for the organization.

Jordan, Stefanski's first major coaching hire, flopped in his lone season. After first-round exits in the playoffs two straight seasons, the Sixers finished 27-55 and in the draft lottery.

This could turn out as the most pivotal offseason for the Sixers since they selected Allen Iverson with the No. 1 overall pick in 1996. The Sixers moved up from the sixth spot to grab the No. 2 pick in Tuesday's lottery.

Now they know who will coach whomever they draft.

Collins guided a young Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls from 1986-89, and the Detroit Pistons from 1995-98. He coached Jordan again with the Washington Wizards from 2001-03.

His two seasons with the Wizards were his only two full seasons in which he did not lead his team to the playoffs. He was fired shortly after Jordan was denied a return to the front office.

Stefanski and other members of Sixers management also interviewed Phoenix assistant coach Dan Majerle, Houston assistant Elston Turner, Portland assistant Monty Williams and former Detroit Pistons star Bill Laimbeer.

Collins has been with TNT since leaving the Wizards.

He was a four-time All-Star with the Sixers, and he averaged 17.9 points in a career marred by injuries. A knee injury forced him to retire in 1981, two years before the 76ers beat the Lakers for the 1983 NBA title.

Collins received the Curt Gowdy Media Award at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September for his work as a broadcaster.



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doping
accusations

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Saipan Tribune Sports



28 SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Limes lead top performers in All Schools

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ten student-athletes stood tall in the 2010 McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships held last weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility, earning them the top athletes award in their respective age groups.

Leading the list was William S. Reyes Elementary School's Alexander Limes, who took the top student athlete award in the boys 12-and-under division.

McDonald's 2010 All Schools Athletics Championship logo

Limes won four gold medals after prevailing in the 800m and 3,000m runs, 4 x 100m relay race, and long jump. He timed in at 2:40.18 in the 800m race beating four other runners; clocked in at 12:43.50 in the 3,000m run, topping three other competitors; and posted 3.98m in the long jump, besting three other students.

In the 4x100m relay, Limes teamed up with Quin Amog, Wilfredo Francisco, and Joseph Maratita in timing in at 58.45 seconds and leading the Kingfisher to a first-place finish against Garapan and Koblerville.

See LIMES on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

William S. Reyes' Alexander Limes leads the pack during the 3,000m run in the 2010 McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.



Wild Bill's crushes Young Guns, 6-1

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Contrary to what its team name suggests, things were pretty much in order for Wild Bill's, which cruised to a 6-1 win over the Young Guns in Week 11 of the 2010 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League played last



Sunday at the Oleai Sport Complex Field.

Detdon Adul and Jeeraphon "Jack" Thoensaket led Wild Bill's trashing of Young Guns as they made a pair of goals apiece.

Thoensaket drilled the first two goals for Wild Bill's in a span of two minutes, hitting his first one in the 10th minute and the second in the 12th. Adul duplicated Thoensaket's feat when he found the back of the net in the 33rd and six minutes later canned an

See WILD on Page 27

Fielders' coach: No doubt about it

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

SMLA Fielders head coach Juan Manibusan reflected on the team's dominating Game 5 victory in the 2010 Saipan Major League championship Monday night and expressed how proud he was of his players and coaches for showing up in the clutch.

"After we fell behind in the series [0-2] a lot of people were counting us out, but I knew my guys could do it. The Brewers proved to be admirable opponents, but I had full confidence in our team before the start of the deciding Game 5."

Since the playoffs began, the Fielders quietly hung around in the championship conversation until the final championship game when they took home the big trophy in dominating fashion.



WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Rangers' Jesus Iguel, seen here being congratulated by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores during the 2010 Saipan Major League awards ceremony, won the batting title, the most runs award, and the regular season MVP.

Coming into the playoffs the undefeated St. Michael's Rangers were the obvious heavy favorite for the 2010 SML title, but after the Brewers knocked out the Rangers in the semifinals, the Brewers began receiving a lot of attention just for making it to the big game.

Moreover, after the Brewers won the first two games to put the Fielders in a do-or-die situation, the Brewers began

See FIELDERS on Page 27

CNMI invited to cage camp in Turkey

Two CNMI youth players and one coach will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the Children of the World Basketball Camp in Istanbul, Turkey this August.

This after the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and Turkish Basketball Federation sent an invitation to the Com-

BANMI m o n - wealth through the Basketball

Association of Northern Mariana Islands, allotting three slots at the camp for the CNMI.

BANMI is allowed to send one male and one female player in the 14-and-under age group and one coach (34-and-below) to the eight-day camp (Aug. 24 to 31), which coincides with Turkey's hosting of the World Basketball Championship for Men.

The Children of the World Basketball Camp is a social and cultural basketball project for youth players from 212 FIBA members.

"Campers will be housed in

See CNMI on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI youth cagers are seen here in action during last year's Rotary youth league. Two of the Commonwealth's 14-and-under players and one coach will be given a chance to represent the CNMI to the Children of the World Basketball Camp in Istanbul, Turkey this August.